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(54) **New benzene derivatives having (NGF) production-promoting activity**

Benzolderivate zum Fördern der Produktion des Nervenwachstumsfaktors

Dérivés de benzène qui favorisent la production du facteur de croissance des nerfs humains

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## Description

The present invention relates to novel benzene derivatives which promote production or secretion of nerve growth factor (abbreviated to "NGF"), while exhibiting weak side effects.

The discovery of NGF was reported by Levi-Montalcini *et al.* in 1954. NGF is a nutrient and growth factor necessary for growth and for functional maintenance of nerve tissues. Recently from studies on animals, it has become known that NGF accelerates restoration of injured peripheral nerve tissue and that NGF is effective in the therapy of central nervous dysfunction, especially Alzheimer's disease and cerebral ischemia.

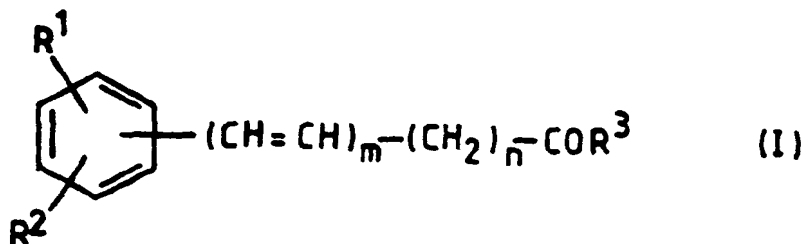
However, NGF is a high molecular weight protein (having a molecular weight of 13000 for the monomeric form, and 26000 for the dimeric form), and so there are problems associated with its administration as a drug and general concerns for safety.

It is also known that catechol neurotransmitters such as adrenaline and noradrenaline, and catechol analogs, can promote NGF formation. These compounds have side effects, particularly in nerve excitation.

European Patent Specification 399,814 published on 28 November 1990 discloses phenol derivatives which promote the production and secretion of human nerve growth factor. Related compounds of similar utility are disclosed in Japanese Patent Application 1-217211 which was filed on 25 August 1989 and published as Japanese Patent Kokai 3-83921 on 09 April 1991.

An object of the present invention is the development of benzene derivatives effective as drugs which promote nerve growth factor or effective as intermediates for the preparation of such drugs. A particular object is the provision of such drugs with reduced side effects, in particular with low nerve excitation activity. Further objects of this invention include the provision of pharmaceutical compositions for use in treatment of peripheral nerve damage and treatment of damage to the functioning of the central nervous system, especially in Alzheimer's disease and brain ischemia.

In accordance with the present invention, there are provided novel benzene derivatives of the general formula (I):



wherein:

R<sup>1</sup> represents an amino group or a protected amino group;

R<sup>2</sup> represents an amino group or a protected amino group;

R<sup>3</sup> represents a substituted amino group substituted by 1 or 2 groups selected from the members of Substituent Group A', or a N-containing heterocyclic group having a ring nitrogen atom as the point of binding, where Substituent Group A' consists of the following members: straight or branched chain alkyl groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, 5- to 10-membered optionally bridged saturated cyclic hydrocarbon group, 6- to 10-membered aromatic cyclic hydrocarbon groups optionally fused with a cycloalkyl group and optionally substituted by 1 or 2 groups selected from the members of Substituent Group B and Substituent Group C, heterocyclic groups, and heterocyclic groups substituted by 1 or 2 groups selected from the members of Substituent Group B and Substituent Group C;

m represents an integer from 0 to 2;

n represents an integer from 0 to 6;

Substituent Group B consists of the following members: halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, alkoxy carbonyl groups, a nitro group, a cyano group, aryl carbonyl, aralkyl carbonyl groups;

Substituent Group C consists of the following members: straight or branched chain alkyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, haloalkyl groups containing 1 to 3 halogen atoms, and cycloalkyl groups;

heterocyclic groups comprise 5- to 7-membered heterocyclic groups containing from 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from nitrogen atoms, oxygen atoms and sulphur atoms, optionally fused with 1 or 2 aryl rings;

cycloalkyl groups comprise 3- to 10-membered optionally bridged saturated cyclic hydrocarbon groups;

aryl groups comprise 6- to 14-membered aromatic cyclic hydrocarbon groups optionally fused with a cycloalkyl group;

aralkyl groups comprise alkyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms substituted by 1 to 3 aryl groups;

halogen atoms comprise fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine atoms;

alkoxy groups comprise straight or branched chain alkoxy groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

with the proviso that when  $\underline{m}$  is 0, then  $\underline{n}$  represents an integer from 2 to 6, and that when  $\underline{m}$  is 0,  $\underline{n}$  is 2,  $R^1$  is an amino group and  $R^2$  is an amino group,  $R^3$  is other than an amino group substituted with one or two alkyl groups or a N-containing heterocyclic group having a ring nitrogen atom at the point of binding; and salts thereof.

Alkyl groups in the definition of the compounds of the present invention typically comprise straight or branched chain alkyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, for example a methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl, tert-butyl, pentyl, isopentyl, 2-methylbutyl, neopentyl, 1-ethylpropyl, n-hexyl, 4-methylpentyl, 3-methylpentyl, 2-methylpentyl, 1-methylpentyl, 3,3-dimethylbutyl, 2,2-dimethylbutyl, 1,1-dimethylbutyl, 1,2-dimethylbutyl, 1,3-dimethylbutyl, 2,3-dimethylbutyl or 2-ethylbutyl group. Preferred alkyl groups are straight or branched chain alkyl groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

Cycloalkyl groups in the definition of the compounds of the present invention typically comprise 3- to 10-membered saturated cyclic hydrocarbon groups which may optionally be bridged, for example a cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cycloheptyl, norbornyl or adamantyl group. Preferred cycloalkyl groups are 5- to 10-membered optionally bridged saturated cyclic hydrocarbon groups. A particularly preferred cycloalkyl group is an adamantyl group.

Aryl groups in the definition of the compounds of the present invention typically comprise 6- to 14-membered aromatic cyclic hydrocarbon groups, for example a phenyl, naphthyl, phenanthrenyl or anthracenyl group; preferably a phenyl group. The aryl group may be fused with a 3- to 10-membered cycloalkyl group, giving for example a 2-indanyl group.

Aralkyl groups in the definition of the compounds of the present invention typically comprise 1 alkyl group substituted by 1 to 3 aryl groups. Examples of such aralkyl groups include a benzyl, naphthylmethyl, indenylmethyl, phenanthrenylmethyl, anthracenylmethyl, diphenylmethyl, triphenylmethyl, 1-phenethyl, 2-phenethyl, 1-naphthylethyl, 2-naphthylethyl, 1-phenylpropyl, 2-phenylpropyl, 3-phenylpropyl, 1-naphthylpropyl, 2-naphthylpropyl, 3-naphthylpropyl, 1-phenylbutyl, 2-phenylbutyl, 3-phenylbutyl, 4-phenylbutyl, 1-naphthylbutyl, 2-naphthylbutyl, 3-naphthylbutyl, 4-naphthylbutyl, 1-phenylpentyl, 2-phenylpentyl, 3-phenylpentyl, 4-phenylpentyl, 5-phenylpentyl, 1-naphthylpentyl, 2-naphthylpentyl, 3-naphthylpentyl, 4-naphthylpentyl, 5-naphthylpentyl, 1-phenylhexyl, 2-phenylhexyl, 3-phenylhexyl, 4-phenylhexyl, 5-phenylhexyl, 6-phenylhexyl, 1-naphthylhexyl, 2-naphthylhexyl, 3-naphthylhexyl, 4-naphthylhexyl, 5-naphthylhexyl or 6-naphthylhexyl group. Preferred aralkyl groups have from 1 to 4 carbon atoms in the alkyl group part. A particularly preferred aralkyl group is a benzyl group.

Heterocyclic groups in the definition of the compounds of the present invention generally comprise an optionally fused 5- to 7-membered heterocyclic group containing from 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from nitrogen atoms, oxygen atoms and sulphur atoms. This generality is subject where indicated to the requirement specified that certain heterocyclic groups have a ring nitrogen atom as their point of binding; such heterocyclic groups may have more than one nitrogen heteroatom. The heterocyclic group can be aromatic or partly or fully saturated, and can be fused with 1 or 2 aryl rings, usually with 1 or 2 benzene rings.

Typical heterocyclic groups embracing heterocyclic groups in general and also embracing heterocyclic groups having a ring nitrogen atom as their binding point comprise:

aromatic heterocyclic groups, for example a furyl, thienyl, pyrrolyl, azepinyl, pyrazolyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, 1,2,3-oxadiazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyranyl, pyridyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl or pirazinyl group;

partially or completely reduced heterocyclic groups, for example a morpholinyl, thiomorpholinyl, pyrrolidinyl, pyrrolinyl, imidazolidinyl, imidazolinyl, pyrazolidinyl, pyrazolinyl, piperidyl or piperazinyl group;

fused aromatic heterocyclic groups, for example a isobenzofuranyl, benzothienyl, tetrahydrobenzothienyl, chromenyl, xanthenyl, phenoxathieryl, indolidinyl, isoindolyl, indolyl, indazolyl, purinyl, quinolidinyl, isoquinolyl, quinolyl,

phthalazinyl, naphthyridinyl, quinoxalinyl, quinazolinyl, carbazoyl, carbolinyl, acridinyl or isoindolinyl group; or partially or completely saturated fused heterocyclic groups, for example a tetrahydrobenzothienyl group.

Preferred heterocyclic groups are 5- to 7-membered heterocyclic groups containing at least one nitrogen atom and further optionally containing 1 sulphur or oxygen atom, which may optionally be partially or completely saturated and may optionally be fused to an aryl ring. Such preferred heterocyclic groups include:

aromatic heterocyclic groups, for example a pyrrolyl, azepinyl, pyrazolyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, 1,2,3-oxadiazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyridyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl or pirazinyl group; partially or completely saturated heterocyclic group, for example a morpholinyl, thiomorpholinyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, imidazolidinyl, imidazolinyl, pyrazolidinyl, pyrazolinyl, piperidyl or piperazinyl group; or fused heterocyclic groups, for example a quinolyl or benzothienyl group.

Particularly preferred heterocyclic groups comprise an imidazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, piperidyl or piperazinyl group.

Halogen atoms in the definition of the compounds of the present invention can suitably be a fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine atom.

Alkoxy groups in the definition of the compounds of the present invention typically comprise a said alkyl group and an oxygen atom, giving straight or branched chain alkoxy groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, for example a methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, isopropoxy, butoxy, isobutoxy, sec-butoxy, tert-butoxy, pentoxy, isopentoxy, 2-methylbutoxy, neopentoxy, hexyloxy, 4-methylpentoxy, 3-methylpentoxy, 2-methylpentoxy, 3,3-dimethylbutoxy, 2,2-dimethylbutoxy, 1,1-dimethylbutoxy, 1,2-dimethylbutoxy, 1,3-dimethylbutoxy or 2,3-dimethylbutoxy group. Preferred alkoxy groups are straight or branched chain alkoxy groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

Haloalkyl groups in the definition of the compounds of the present invention typically comprise a said alkyl group and 1 to 3 halogen atoms, for example a trifluoromethyl, trichloromethyl, difluoromethyl, dichloromethyl, dibromomethyl, fluoromethyl, 2,2,2-trichloroethyl, 2,2,2-trifluoroethyl, 2-bromoethyl, 2-chloroethyl, 2-fluoroethyl or 2,2-dibromoethyl group. A preferred haloalkyl group is a halogenomethyl group. A particularly preferred haloalkyl group is a trifluoromethyl group.

The protected amino groups which may be adopted for the group R<sup>1</sup> and/or for the group R<sup>2</sup> comprise an amino group protected by 1 or 2 amino protecting groups. The identity of the protecting group is not particularly critical, and typically it is one conventionally used for protection of an amino group, preferably for instance:

aliphatic acyl groups such as an alkanoyl group having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, for example a formyl, acetyl, propionyl, butyryl, isobutyryl, pentanoyl, pivaloyl, valeryl, isovaleryl, octanoyl, lauroyl, myristoyl, tridecanoyl, palmitoyl or stearoyl group, such as a halogenated aliphatic acyl group, more especially a haloalkanoyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms and having from 1 to 3 halogen atoms, for example a chloroacetyl, dichloroacetyl, trichloroacetyl or trifluoroacetyl group, such as an alkoxy aliphatic acyl group, more especially an alkoxyalkanoyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms in the alkoxy group and 1 to 6 carbon atoms in the alkanoyl group, for example a methoxyacetyl group, or such as an unsaturated aliphatic acyl group, more especially an alkenoyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, for example an (E)-2-methyl-2-butenoyl group; an aromatic acyl group such as an aryl-carbonyl group, for example a benzoyl,  $\alpha$ -naphthoyl or  $\beta$ -naphthoyl group, such as a haloarylcarbonyl group, more especially a haloarylcarbonyl group having from 1 to 3 halogen substituents, for example a 2-bromobenzoyl or 4-chlorobenzoyl group, such as an alkylarylcarbonyl group, more especially an alkylarylcarbonyl group having from 1 to 3 alkyl substituents each having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms, for example a 2,4,5-trimethylbenzoyl or 4-toluoyl group, such as an alkoxyarylcarbonyl group, more especially an alkoxyarylcarbonyl group having from 1 to 3 alkoxy substituents each having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms, for example a 4-anisoyl group, such as a nitroarylcarbonyl group, more especially a nitroarylcarbonyl group having 1 or 2 nitro substituents, for example a 4-nitrobenzoyl or 2-nitrobenzoyl group, such as an alkoxycarbonylarylcarbonyl group, more especially an alkoxycarbonylarylcarbonyl group having 1 or 2 alkoxycarbonyl substituents each having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms in the alkoxy group, for example a 2-(methoxycarbonyl)benzoyl group, such as an arylarylcarbonyl group, for example a 4-phenylbenzoyl group; alkoxy carbonyl groups such as an alkoxycarbonyl group comprising a said alkoxy group and a carbonyl group, giving straight or branched chain alkoxycarbonyl groups having from 2 to 7 carbon atoms, for example a methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, propoxycarbonyl, isopropoxycarbonyl, butoxycarbonyl, isobutoxycarbonyl, sec-butoxycarbonyl, tert-butoxycarbonyl, pentoxycarbonyl, isopentoxycarbonyl, 2-methylbutoxycarbonyl, neopentoxycarbonyl, hexyloxycarbonyl, 4-methylpentoxycarbonyl, 3-methylpentoxycarbonyl, 2-methylpentoxycarbonyl, 3,3-dimethylbutoxycarbonyl, 2,2-dimethylbutoxycarbonyl, 1,1-dimethylbutoxycarbonyl, 1,2-dimethylbutoxycarbonyl, 1,3-dimethylbutoxycarbonyl or 2,3-dimethylbutoxycarbonyl group, preferably a straight or branched chain

alkoxycarbonyl group having from 2 to 5 carbon atoms, such as a haloalkoxycarbonyl group, more especially a haloalkoxy group of which the alkoxy group has 1 to 6 carbon atoms and has from 1 to 3 halogen substituents, for example a 2,2,2-trichloroethoxycarbonyl group, or such as an tri-alkylsilylalkoxy group, more especially a tri-alkylsilylalkoxy group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms in each alkyl group and having 1 to 6 carbon atoms in the alkoxy group,

for example a 2-trimethylsilylethoxycarbonyl group;

alkenyloxycarbonyl groups, more especially an alkenyloxycarbonyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms in the alkenyl group, for example a vinyloxycarbonyl or allyloxycarbonyl group; an optionally substituted aralkyloxycarbonyl group, more especially an aralkyloxycarbonyl group in which the aryl ring is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 alkoxy groups having 1 to 6 carbon atoms or by 1 or 2 nitro groups, for example a benzyloxycarbonyl, 4-methoxybenzyloxycarbonyl, 3,4-dimethoxybenzyloxycarbonyl, 2-nitrobenzyloxycarbonyl or 4-nitrobenzyloxycarbonyl group

group; silyl groups such as a tri-alkylsilyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms in each alkyl group, for example a trimethylsilyl, triethylsilyl, isopropyl dimethylsilyl, tert-butyl dimethylsilyl, methyl diisopropylsilyl, methyl-di-tert-butylsilyl or triisopropylsilyl group, or such as a mixed alkyl/aryl tri-substituted-silyl group with 1 or 2 alkyl groups each having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and correspondingly having 2 or 1 aryl groups, for example a diphenylmethylsilyl, diphenylbutylsilyl, diphenylisopropylsilyl or phenyldiisopropylsilyl group;

amino acid residues, for example an alanyl, glycyl, glutamyl or asparaginy group;

substituted methylene groups forming a Schiff base, for example an N,N-dimethylaminomethylene, benzylidene, 4-methoxybenzylidene, 4-nitrobenzylidene, salicylidene, 5-chlorosalicylidene, diphenylmethylene or (5-chloro-2-hydroxyphenyl)phenylmethylene group.

Of these preferred protecting groups for amino groups, the more preferred protecting groups comprise an aliphatic acyl or aromatic acyl group or an amino acid residue.

In the definition of the group  $R^3$ , the heterocyclic group binding at the nitrogen atom on its ring, is suitably an optionally fused 5- to 7-membered heterocyclic group containing the binding nitrogen atom and optionally further containing from 1 or 2 further heteroatoms selected from nitrogen atoms, oxygen atoms and sulphur atoms. This heterocyclic group can be aromatic or partly or fully saturated, and can be fused with 1 or 2 aryl rings, usually with 1 or 2 benzene rings.

Preferred heterocyclic groups include an aromatic heterocyclic group, for example a pyrrolyl, azepiny, pyrazoly, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, 1,2,3-oxadiazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyridyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl or pyrazinyl group; a partially or completely saturated heterocyclic group, for example a morpholinyl, thiomorpholinyl, pyrrolidinyl, pyrrolinyl, imidazolidinyl, imidazolinyl, pyrazolidinyl, pyrazolinyl, piperidyl or piperazinyl; more preferably a morpholinyl, thiomorpholinyl, piperidyl or piperazyl group; or a condensed heterocyclic group, for example an indolidinyl, isoindolyl, indolyl, indazolyl, purinyl, quinolidinyl, isoquinolyl, quinolyl, phthalazinyl, naphthyridinyl, quinoxalinyl, quinazolinyl, carbazolyl, carbolinyl or acridinyl group.

Preferred examples of a substituted amino group substituted by 1 to 2 groups selected from the members of Substituent Group A' comprise an amino group substituted by 1 or 2 straight or branched chain alkyl groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, such as a methylamino, ethylamino, propylamino, isopropylamino, butylamino, isobutylamino, dimethylamino, diethylamino or methylethylamino group; an amino group substituted by one straight or branched chain alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms and one 6- to 10-membered aromatic cyclic hydrocarbon group such as methylphenylamino, ethylphenylamino, propylphenylamino, isopropylphenylamino, butylphenylamino, isobutylphenylamino; an amino group substituted by one or two 5- to 10-membered optionally bridged saturated cyclic hydrocarbon groups such as a cyclopentylamino, cyclohexylamino or 1-adamantylamino group; an amino group substituted by one or two 6- to 10-membered aromatic cyclic hydrocarbon groups optionally fused with a cycloalkyl group and optionally substituted by 1 or 2 groups selected from the members of Substituent Group B and Substituent Group C, such as an arylamino group, for example a phenylamino, diphenylamino, 1-indanylamino or naphthylamino group, a haloarylamino group, for example a 2-fluorophenylamino, 3-bromophenylamino, 4-fluoro-phenylamino, 2-fluorindan-1-ylamino, 3,4-difluoro-phenylamino, 2,4-difluorophenylamino, 2,5-difluoro-phenylamino, 2-chlorophenylamino, 3-chlorophenylamino, 4-chlorophenylamino, 3,4-dichlorophenylamino, 2,4-dichlorophenylamino, 2,5-dichlorophenylamino or 2-fluoronaphthylamino group, a  $C_{1-4}$ -alkoxy-arylamino group, for example a 2-ethoxyphenylamino, 3-propoxyphenylamino, 4-methoxyphenylamino, 3,4-dimethoxyphenylamino, 2,4-dimethoxyphenylamino, 2,5-dimethoxyphenylamino or 2-methoxynaphthylamino group, a nitroarylamino group, for example a 2-nitrophenylamino, 3-nitrophenylamino or 4-nitrophenylamino group, a cyanoarylamino group, for example a 2-cyanophenylamino, 3-cyanophenylamino or 4-cyanophenylamino group, a benzoylarylamino group, for example a 2-benzoylphenylamino, 3-benzoylphenylamino, 4-benzoylphenylamino or 2-benzoylnaphthylamino group, a halo- $C_{1-4}$ -alkyl-arylamino group, for example a 2-trifluoromethylphenylamino, 3-trichloromethylphenylamino, 4-trifluoromethylphenylamino, 2,4-ditrifluoromethylphenylamino or 2,5-ditrifluoromethylphenylamino group, a  $C_{1-4}$ -alkyl-arylamino group, for example a 2-methylphenylamino, 3-methylphenylamino, 4-methylphenylamino, 3,4-dimethylphenylamino, 2,4-dimethylphenylamino, 2,5-dimethylphenylamino,

2-ethylphenylamino, 3-propylphenylamino, 4-butylphenylamino, 3,4-diethylphenylamino, 2,4-diethylphenylamino, 2,5-dipropylphenylamino, 3,4,5-trimethylphenylamino or 2-methylnaphthylamino group; an amino group substituted by 1 or 2 heterocyclic groups, such as a tetrahydrobenzothiophen-2-yl amino, quinolin-2-yl amino, quinolin-3-ylamino, quinolin-5-ylamino, quinolin-8-yl- amino, pyridin-2-ylamino, pyridin-3-ylamino, pyridin-4-ylamino, morpholin-2-ylamino, morpholin-3-ylamino, piperidin-2-ylamino, piperidin-3-ylamino, piperidin-4-ylamino, piperazin-2-ylamino or piperazin-3-ylamino group; an amino group substituted by 1 or 2 heterocyclic groups substituted by 1 or 2 groups selected from the members of Substituent Group B and Substituent Group C, such as a haloheterocyclylamino group, for example a 3-fluorotetrahydrobenzothiophen-2-ylamino, 3-bromopiperidin-4-ylamino, 2-fluoroquinolin-3-ylamino, 3-fluoromorpholin-2-ylamino, 3-fluoropiperazin-2-ylamino, 2-chloropiperidin-4-yl-amino, 3-chlorotetrahydrobenzothiophen-2-ylamino, 4-chloropiperidin-2-ylamino or 2,6-dichloropiperidin-4-ylamino group, a C<sub>1-4</sub>-alkoxyheterocyclylamino group, for example a 3-ethoxymorpholin-2-ylamino, 4-methoxyquinolin-5-ylamino or 2,6-dimethoxypiperidin-4-ylamino group, a C<sub>2-5</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl- heterocyclylamino group, for example a 3-methoxycarbonyltetrahydrobenzothiophen-2-ylamino or 4-ethoxycarbonyltetrahydrobenzothiophen-2-ylamino group, a cyanoheterocyclylamino group, for example a 3-cyanopyridin-2-ylamino, 3-cyanotetrahydrobenzothiophen-2-yl- amino or 3-cyanopiperazin-2-ylamino group, a halo- C<sub>1-4</sub>-alkylheterocyclylamino group, for example a 2-trifluoromethylquinolin-3-ylamino, 3-trichloromethylmethylmorpholin-2-ylamino, 4-trifluoromethyltetrahydrobenzothiophen-2-ylamino or 2,6-ditrifluoromethylpiperidin-4-ylamino group, or a C<sub>1-4</sub>-alkyl-heterocyclylamino group, for example a 3-methyltetrahydrobenzothiophen-2-ylamino, 4-methyltetrahydrobenzothiophen-2-ylamino, 4-methylpiperidin-2-ylamino, 2,6-dimethylpyridin-4-ylamino or 2,5-dimethylpyridin-4-ylamino group.

Preferred examples of a substituted C<sub>5-10</sub>-cycloalkyl group substituted by 1 to 3 groups selected from the members of Substituent Group B and Substituent Group C comprise: a halo- C<sub>5-10</sub>-cycloalkyl group such as a 2-chlorocyclopentyl, 3-chlorocyclopentyl, 2-fluorocyclopentyl, 3-fluorocyclopentyl, 2-chlorocyclohexyl, 3-fluorocyclohexyl, 4-bromocyclohexyl, 3,4-difluorocyclohexyl, 2-fluoroadamantyl or 3-fluoroadamantyl group; a C<sub>1-4</sub>-alkoxy- C<sub>5-10</sub>-cycloalkyl group such as a 2-methoxycyclopentyl, 3-ethoxycyclopentyl, 2-propoxycyclohexyl, 3-methoxycyclohexyl, 4-methoxycyclohexyl, 2-methoxyadamantyl or 3-ethoxyadamantyl group; a C<sub>2-5</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl- C<sub>5-10</sub> cycloalkyl group such as a 2-methoxycarbonylcyclopentyl, 3-ethoxycarbonylcyclopentyl, 2-methoxycarbonylcyclohexyl, 3-methoxycarbonylcyclohexyl, 4-ethoxycarbonylcyclohexyl, 2-propoxycarbonyladamantyl or 4-methoxycarbonyladamantyl group; a nitro- C<sub>5-10</sub>-cycloalkyl group such as a 2-nitrocyclopentyl, 3-nitrocyclopentyl, 2-nitrocyclohexyl, 3-nitrocyclohexyl, 4-nitrocyclohexyl, 2-nitroadamantyl or 3-nitroadamantyl group; a cyano- C<sub>5-10</sub>-cycloalkyl group such as a 2-cyanocyclopentyl, 3-cyanocyclopentyl, 2-cyanocyclohexyl, 3-cyanocyclohexyl, 4-cyanocyclohexyl, 2-cyanoadamantyl or 4-cyanoadamantyl group; a benzoyl- C<sub>5-10</sub>-cycloalkyl group such as a 3-benzoylcyclopentyl, 3-benzoylcyclohexyl, 4-benzoylcyclohexyl or 2-benzoyladamantyl group; a halo- C<sub>1-4</sub>-alkyl- C<sub>5-10</sub>-cycloalkyl group such as a 3-trifluoroethylcyclopentyl, 4-trichloromethylcyclohexyl, 2-trifluoromethyladamantyl or 3-trifluoromethyladamantyl group; a C<sub>1-4</sub>-alkyl-C<sub>5-10</sub> cycloalkyl group such as a 2-methylcyclopentyl, 3-ethylcyclopentyl, 2-methylcyclohexyl, 3-methylcyclohexyl, 4-propylcyclohexyl, 2-methyladamantyl or 3-methyladamantyl group; or a C<sub>5-10</sub>-cycloalkyl-C<sub>5-10</sub>-cycloalkyl group such as a 3-cyclohexylcyclopentyl or 4-cyclohexylcyclohexyl group.

Preferred examples of a substituted aryl group substituted by 1 to 3 groups selected from the members of Substituent Group B and Substituent Group C comprise a halo- C<sub>6-10</sub>-aryl group such as a 2-fluorophenyl, 3-bromophenyl, 4-fluorophenyl, 3,4-difluorophenyl, 2,4-difluorophenyl, 2,5-difluorophenyl, 2-chlorophenyl, 3-chlorophenyl, 4-chlorophenyl, 3,4-dichlorophenyl, 2,4-dichlorophenyl, 2,5-dichlorophenyl, 3,4,5-tribromophenyl or 2-fluoronaphthyl group; a C<sub>1-4</sub>-alkoxy-C<sub>6-10</sub>-aryl group such as a 2-ethoxyphenyl, 3-propoxyphenyl, 4-methoxyphenyl, 3,4-dimethoxyphenyl, 2,4-dimethoxyphenyl, 2,5-dimethoxyphenyl, 3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl or 2-methoxynaphthyl group; a C<sub>2-5</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl- C<sub>6-10</sub>-aryl group such as a 2-methoxycarbonylphenyl, 4-ethoxycarbonylphenyl, 2-methoxycarbonylnaphthyl group; a nitro- C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl group such as a 2-nitrophenyl, 3-nitrophenyl, 4-nitrophenyl group; a cyano- C<sub>6-10</sub>-aryl group such as a 2-cyanophenyl, 3-cyanophenyl, 4-cyanophenyl group; a benzoyl- C<sub>6-10</sub>-aryl group such as a 2-benzoylphenyl, 3-benzoylphenyl, 4-benzoylphenyl, 2-benzoylnaphthyl group; a halo- C<sub>1-4</sub>-alkyl- C<sub>6-10</sub>-aryl group such as a 2-trifluoromethylphenyl, 3-trichloromethylphenyl, 4-trifluoromethylphenyl, 2,4-ditrifluoromethylphenyl, 2,5-ditrifluoromethylphenyl, 3,4,5-tris(trifluoromethyl)phenyl or 2-trifluoromethylnaphthyl group; a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl C<sub>6-10</sub>-aryl group such as a 2-methylphenyl, 3-methylphenyl, 4-methylphenyl, 3,4-dimethylphenyl, 2,4-dimethylphenyl, 2,5-dimethylphenyl, 2-ethylphenyl, 3-propylphenyl, 4-butylphenyl, 3,4-diethylphenyl, 2,4-diethylphenyl, 2,5-dipropylphenyl, 3,4,5-trimethylphenyl or 2-methylnaphthyl group; or a C<sub>5-10</sub>-cycloalkyl- C<sub>6-10</sub>-aryl group such as a 4-cyclohexylphenyl group.

Preferred examples of a substituted aralkyl group substituted by 1 to 3 groups selected from the members of Substituent Group B and Substituent Group C comprise a halo- C<sub>7-12</sub>-aralkyl group such as a 2-fluorobenzyl, 3-bromophenethyl, 4-fluorobenzyl, 3,4-difluorobenzyl, 2,4-difluorobenzyl, 2,5-difluorobenzyl, 2-chlorophenethyl, 3-chlorobenzyl, 4-chlorobenzyl, 4-bromobenzyl, 4-chlorophenethyl, 3,4-dichlorobenzyl, 2,4-dichlorobenzyl, bis (2,4-dichlorophenyl)methyl, 2,5-dichlorobenzyl, 3,4,5-tribromobenzyl or 2-fluoronaphthylmethyl group; a C<sub>1-4</sub>-alkoxy-C<sub>7-12</sub>-aralkyl group such as a 2-ethoxyphenethyl, 3-propoxybenzyl, 4-methoxybenzyl, 4-methoxyphenyldiphenylmethyl, 3,4-dimethoxyphenethyl, 2,4-dimethoxybenzyl, 2,5-dimethoxybenzyl, 3,4,5-trimethoxyphenethyl or 2-methoxy-

naphthylmethyl group; a C<sub>2-5</sub> alkoxy carbonyl-C<sub>7-12</sub>-aralkyl group such as a 2-methoxycarbonylphenethyl, 4-ethoxycarbonylbenzyl or 2-methoxycarbonylnaphthylmethyl group; a nitro-C<sub>7-12</sub>-aralkyl group such as a 2-nitrobenzyl, 3-nitrophenethyl, 4-nitrobenzyl, bis(2-nitrophenyl)methyl group; a cyano-C<sub>7-12</sub>-aralkyl group such as a 2-cyanophenethyl, 3-cyanobenzyl, 4-cyanobenzyl, 4-cyanophenethyl or 4-cyanobenzyl diphenylmethyl group; a benzoyl-C<sub>7-12</sub>-aralkyl group such as a 2-benzoylphenethyl, 3-benzoylbenzyl, 4-benzoylbenzyl or 2-benzoylnaphthylmethyl group; a halo-C<sub>1-4</sub>-alkyl-C<sub>7-12</sub>-aralkyl group such as a 2-trifluoromethylbenzyl, 3-trichloromethylphenethyl, 4-trifluoromethylbenzyl, 2,4-ditrifluoromethylbenzyl, 2,5-ditrifluoromethylphenethyl, 3,4,5-tris(trifluoromethyl)benzyl or 2-trifluoromethylnaphthylmethyl group; a C<sub>1-4</sub>-alkyl-C<sub>7-12</sub>-aralkyl group such as a 2-methylbenzyl, 3-methylbenzyl, 4-methylbenzyl, 4-methylphenethyl, 3,4-dimethylbenzyl, 2,4-dimethylphenethyl, 2,5-dimethylbenzyl, 2-ethylphenethyl, 3-propylphenethyl, 4-butylbenzyl, 3,4-diethylbenzyl, 2,4-diethylphenethyl, 2,5-dipropylbenzyl, 3,4,5-trimethylbenzyl, 2,4,6-trimethylbenzyl or 2-methylnaphthylmethyl group; or a C<sub>5-10</sub> cycloalkyl-C<sub>7-12</sub>-aralkyl group such as a 4-cyclohexylbenzyl group.

Preferred examples of a substituted heterocyclic group substituted by 1 to 3 groups selected from the members of Substituent Group B and Substituent Group C comprise a haloheterocyclyl group such as a 3-fluorotetrahydrobenzothiofen-2-yl, 3-bromopiperidin-4-yl, 2-fluoroquinolin-3-yl, 3-fluoromorpholin-2-yl, 3-fluoropiperazin-2-yl, 2-chloropiperidin-4-yl, 3-chlorotetrahydrobenzothiofen-2-yl, 4-chloropiperidin-2-yl or 2,6-dichloropiperidin-4-yl group; a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkoxy-heterocyclyl group such as a 3-ethoxymorpholin-2-yl, 4-methoxyquinolin-8-yl, 2,6-dimethoxypiperidin-4-yl group; a C<sub>2-5</sub> alkoxy carbonyl-heterocyclyl group such as a 3-methoxycarbonyltetrahydrobenzothiofen-2-yl or 4-ethoxycarbonyltetrahydrobenzothiofen-2-yl group; a cyanoheterocyclyl group such as a 3-cyanopyridin-2-yl, 3-cyanotetrahydrobenzothiofen-2-yl or 3-cyanopiperazin-2-yl group; a benzoylheterocyclyl group such as a 2-benzoylpiperidin-4-yl or 4-benzoylpyridin-2-yl group; a halo-C<sub>1-4</sub>-alkyl-heterocyclyl group such as a 2-trifluoromethylquinolin-3-yl, 3-trichloromethylmorpholin-2-yl, 4-trifluoromethyltetrahydrobenzothiofen-2-yl or 2,6-ditrifluoromethylpiperidin-4-yl group; a C<sub>1-4</sub>-alkyl-heterocyclyl group such as a 3-methyltetrahydrobenzothiofen-2-yl, 4-methyltetrahydrobenzothiofen-2-yl, 4-methylpiperidin-2-yl or 2,6-dimethylpyridin-4-yl, 2,5-dimethylpyridin-4-yl group; or a C<sub>5-10</sub> cycloalkyl-heterocyclyl group such as a 4-cyclohexylpiperidin-2-yl group.

The compounds (I) of the present invention may exist in the form of salts. Preferred salts include a salt with an inorganic acid such as a hydrohalide salt, for example a hydrofluoride, hydrochloride, hydrobromide or hydroiodide salt, or a salt with another inorganic acid, for example a nitrate, perchlorate, sulphate or phosphate salt; a salt with an organic acid such as an alkanesulphonate salt, more especially an optionally halo substituted alkanesulphonate having 1 to 3 carbon atoms in the alkane group and 0 to 5 halogen atom substituents, for example a methanesulphonate, trifluoromethanesulphonate, ethanesulphonate, trifluoromethanesulphonate or pentafluoroethanesulphonate salt, such as an arylsulphonate salt, more especially an optionally alkyl-substituted arylsulphonate having 0 to 3 alkyl substituents each having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, for example a benzenesulphonate or p-toluenesulphonate salt, or such as a salt with another organic acid, for example a fumarate, succinate, citrate, tartarate, oxalate or maleate salt; or such as a salt with an amino acid, for example a glutamate or aspartate salt. Preferred salts also include 'onium salts, such as those formed when a member of Substituent Group A' is present as a substituent at a tertiary nitrogen, for example when a member of Substituent Group A' is a fourth group on a nitrogen atom itself being saturated and being the point of binding of a heterocyclic group R<sup>3</sup>. Salts which are pharmaceutically acceptable salts form an aspect of the present invention.

The compounds of the present invention may exist in an optically active form. When an asymmetric carbon atom is present in the molecule, stereoisomers with R configuration or S configuration are possible. If m is 1 or 2, geometric isomers are possible. The present invention embraces all of these individual isomers and any mixture thereof.

Preferred compounds of formula (I) of the present invention include:

- (1) Compounds in which R<sup>1</sup> is an amino group;
- (2) Compounds in which R<sup>2</sup> is an amino group;
- (3) Compounds in which R<sup>3</sup> is a substituted amino group substituted by 1 or 2 groups selected from the members of Substituent Group A', or a heterocyclic group having the ring nitrogen atom as the point of binding;
- (4) Compounds in which m is 0 or 1; and
- (5) Compounds in which n is an integer from 2 to 6;

where Substituent Group A' consists of the following members: straight or branched chain alkyl groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, an adamantyl group, a phenyl group, and substituted phenyl groups substituted by 1 or 2 halogen atoms and/or straight or branched chain alkyl groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

Typical non-limiting compounds of formula (I) of the present invention are exemplified in the following Table, where these abbreviations are employed:

Ac	acetyl
Ada	adamantyl

MCTB 3-methoxycarbonyltetrahydrobenzothienyl

TFAC trifluoroacetyl

Et ethyl

Mor morpholinyl

Pipe piperidino

iBu isobutyl

Pr propyl

Bu butyl

Me methyl

Ph phenyl

Quin quinolyl

Ind indanyl

Compound No.	R <sup>1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>	R <sup>3</sup>	m	n
184	4-NH <sub>2</sub> -	3-NH <sub>2</sub> -	1-Ada-NH-	1	0
189	4-NH <sub>2</sub> -	3-NH <sub>2</sub> -	1-Ada-NH-	1	1
194	4-NH <sub>2</sub> -	3-NH <sub>2</sub> -	1-Ada-NH-	0	2
199	4-NH <sub>2</sub> -	3-NH <sub>2</sub> -	Bu-NH-	1	0
204	4-NH <sub>2</sub> -	3-NH <sub>2</sub> -	1-Mor-	1	1
212	4-NH <sub>2</sub> -	3-NH <sub>2</sub> -	1-Ada-NH-	0	3
217	4-NH <sub>2</sub> -	3-NH <sub>2</sub> -	2,4-diCIPh-NH-	1	0
222	4-NH <sub>2</sub> -	3-NH <sub>2</sub> -	2,4-diCIPh-NH-	1	1
227	4-NH <sub>2</sub> -	3-NH <sub>2</sub> -	2,4-diCIPh-NH-	0	2
230	4-NH <sub>2</sub> -	3-NH <sub>2</sub> -	2,4-diCIPh-NH-	0	3
233	4-NH <sub>2</sub> -	3-NH <sub>2</sub> -	2,5-diMePh-NH-	0	2
236	4-NH <sub>2</sub> -	3-NH <sub>2</sub> -	(Ph) <sub>2</sub> N-	0	2
239	4-NH <sub>2</sub> -	3-NH <sub>2</sub> -	4-PhCO-Ph-NH-	0	2
250	4-NH <sub>2</sub> -	3-NH <sub>2</sub> -	3-Quin-NH-	0	2
251	4-NH <sub>2</sub> -	3-NH <sub>2</sub> -	3-Quin-NH-.HCl	0	2
256	4-NH <sub>2</sub> -	3-NH <sub>2</sub> -	5-Quin-NH-	0	2
257	4-NH <sub>2</sub> -	3-NH <sub>2</sub> -	5-Quin-NH-.HCl	0	2
260	4-NH <sub>2</sub> -	3-NH <sub>2</sub> -	8-Quin-NH-	0	2

Preferred compounds among those mentioned above are those numbered:

184, 189, 194, 199, 204, 212, 217, 222, 227, 230, 236, 239, 250, 251, 256, 257 and 260, and salts thereof.

The most preferred compounds are those numbered: 184, 189, 194, 212, 227, 230, 236, 239, 250, 251, 256, 257 and 260, and salts thereof, especially compounds 250, 251, 256, 257 and 260.

#### NGF promoter activity

Furukawa *et al.* have reported that fibroblast-forming L-M cells from mouse connective tissue can produce and secrete a relatively large amount of NGF, and that catecholamines accelerate such production and secretion of NGF (J. Biol. Chem., 261, 6039-6047, 1986). Following the test method described in this Furukawa paper, but using the compounds of the invention and recognized NGF promoters epinephrine, isoproterenol, L-DOPA, and caffeic acid, NGF production and secretion activities were examined. The test compounds of this invention were employed at 10  $\gamma$ /ml, and the known compounds were employed at 20  $\gamma$ /ml.

Culture medium 199 containing 0.5% peptone was used for culturing L-M cells (for the culture medium 199, see, for instance, Morgan *et al.*, Proc. Soc. Exp. Biol. Med., 73, 1 (1950) or Morgan *et al.* J. Natl. Cancer Inst., 16, 557 (1955). About 5 x 10<sup>4</sup> of L-M cells were placed in each well of a culture plate with 24 wells, and cultured using a CO<sub>2</sub> incubator (37°C, 5% CO<sub>2</sub>) until confluence. After removing the culture medium, the cultured cells were washed once with a wash solution which was 199 culture medium containing 0.5% bovine serum albumin (Fraction V, Sigma). The test compounds were added to a specified concentration to a 199 culture medium containing 0.5% bovine serum albumin, and used to treat 0.5 ml of L-M cells. After culturing the L-M cells in a CO<sub>2</sub> incubator for 24 hours, the medium was recovered and the NGF level was determined.



NGF was quantitatively determined using an enzyme immunoassay [Korshing, Thoenen, *et al.* Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, **80**, 3513-3516, (1983)]. 75  $\mu$ l of a solution of anti-mouse  $\beta$ -NGF antibody (0.3  $\mu$ g/ml, pH 9.6; Boehringer Mannheim) was pipetted into each well of a polystyrene plate with 96 wells. After allowing the plate to stand at room temperature for an hour, the antibody was removed by washing three times with the wash solution. 50  $\mu$ l of a solution of standard  $\beta$ -NGF (Wako Pure Chemical Industries Ltd.) or of the recovered medium was pipetted into the wells. After allowing the plate to stand for 68 hours at room temperature, the standard  $\beta$ -NGF or test solution was removed and each well was washed three times. 50  $\mu$ l of a solution of  $\beta$ -NGF monoclonal antibody (100 mU/ml, pH 7.0; Boehringer Mannheim) labelled with  $\beta$ -galactosidase was pipetted into each well. After allowing the plate to stand at 4°C for 15 - 18 hours, enzyme labelled antibody was removed and the wells washed three times followed by pipetting 100  $\mu$ l of a solution of chlorophenol red- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranoside (1 mg/ml, pH 7.3; Boehringer Mannheim) into each well. Color was allowed to develop (after 2 - 3 hours at room temperature), and the absorbance was determined at 570 nm.

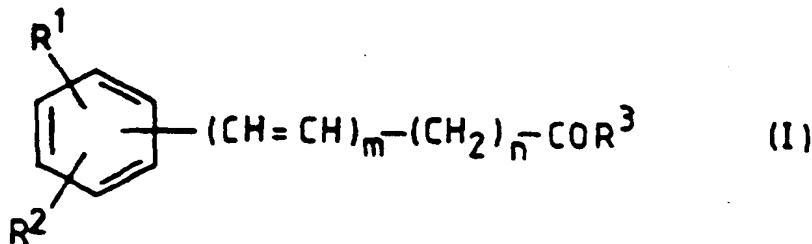
The amount of NGF was calculated from a standard curve. The results are expressed as a relative value (%) which is relative to the amount of NGF produced and secreted by cells treated not with the test compounds. The numerical values (% Control) are expressed by the mean value in the 3 wells of the control (without addition of the test compounds).

Known compound	% Control
epinephrine	140 $\pm$ 24
isoproterenol	168 $\pm$ 22
L-DOPA	117 $\pm$ 7
caffeic Acid	123 $\pm$ 14

Example Compound	% Control
Example 22	380
Example 34	606
Example 40	276
Example 43	491

It can be seen that the novel phenyl derivatives of the present invention include compounds which exhibit excellent activity in promoting the production and secretion of NGF. They are also low in toxicity. The active derivatives are thus of use in the therapy of dementia, cerebral ischemia and various kinds of nerve dysfunction.

The present invention therefore provides pharmaceutical compositions which comprise a compound of general formula (I):



wherein:

R<sup>1</sup> represents an amino group or a protected amino group;

R<sup>2</sup> represents an amino group or a protected amino group;

R<sup>3</sup> represents a substituted amino group substituted by 1 or 2 groups selected from the members of Substituent Group A', or a N-containing heterocyclic group having a ring nitrogen atom as the point of binding, where Substituent Group A' consists of the following members: straight or branched chain alkyl groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, 5- to 10-membered optionally bridged saturated cyclic hydrocarbon group, 6- to 10-membered aromatic

cyclic hydrocarbon groups optionally fused with a cycloalkyl group and optionally substituted by 1 or 2 groups selected from the members of Substituent Group B and Substituent Group C, heterocyclic groups, and heterocyclic groups substituted by 1 or 2 groups selected from the members of Substituent Group B and Substituent Group C;

m represents an integer from 0 to 2;

n represents an integer from 0 to 6;

Substituent Group B consists of the following members: halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, alkoxycarbonyl groups, a nitro group, a cyano group, arylcarbonyl, aralkylcarbonyl groups;

Substituent Group C consists of the following members: straight or branched chain alkyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, haloalkyl groups containing 1 to 3 halogen atoms, and cycloalkyl groups;

heterocyclic groups comprise 5- to 7-membered heterocyclic groups containing from 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from nitrogen atoms, oxygen atoms and sulphur atoms, optionally fused with 1 or 2 aryl rings;

cycloalkyl groups comprise 3- to 10-membered optionally bridged saturated cyclic hydrocarbon groups;

aryl groups comprise 6- to 14-membered aromatic cyclic hydrocarbon groups optionally fused with a cycloalkyl group;

aralkyl groups comprise alkyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms substituted by 1 to 3 aryl groups;

halogen atoms comprise fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine atoms;

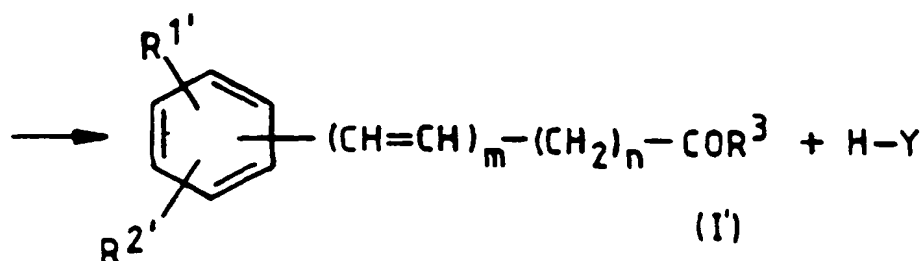
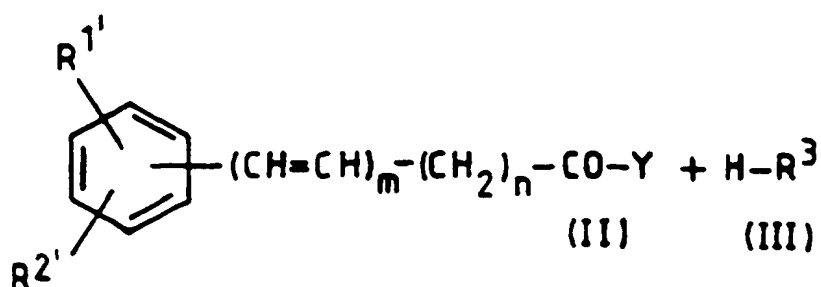
alkoxy groups comprise straight or branched chain alkoxy groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

with the proviso that when m is 0, then n represents an integer from 2 to 6];

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Examples of administration routes for the active compounds (I) of the present invention include oral administration by formulation of the pharmaceutical composition as tablets, capsules, granules, or syrups; and parenteral administration by formulation as injections or suppositories. The pharmaceutical compositions can be prepared using appropriate additives such as vehicles, binders, disintegrators, lubricants, stabilizers or corrigents, according to the conventional procedures. The dosage may vary depending on the symptoms and age of a patient, but usually is from 0.1 to 1000 mg/kg a day, preferably from 1 to 100 mg/kg a day, which in general may be administered to human adults once per day or divided into several doses.

The compounds of the present invention of the general formula (I) can be prepared by a process provided by this invention, which comprises amide formation through reaction of a reactive carboxylic acid derivative of general formula (II) with a compound of general formula (III) to give a compound in accordance with this invention of formula (I'), in accordance with the following reaction scheme:



[wherein R<sup>1'</sup> represents a nitro group, or a protected amino group; R<sup>2'</sup> represents a protected amino group; Y represents a leaving group and R<sup>3</sup>, m and n have the meanings given above], followed if necessary or desired by optional conversion of the product to another compound of this invention, for instance as follows:

- (1) when R<sup>1'</sup> is a nitro group, reductive conversion into a compound of general formula (I) wherein R<sup>1</sup> is an amino group,
- (2) when R<sup>1'</sup> is a protected amino group, removal of the protecting group,
- (3) when R<sup>2'</sup> is a protected amino group, removal of the protecting group, and/or
- (4) salification

The process includes reacting a reactive carboxylic acid derivative of general formula (II) with a compound of the general formula (III). This reaction is suitably carried out in an inert solvent in the presence of a base, and proceeds with formation of compound (I') and HY.

The nature of the leaving group Y is not critical, and Y is suitably a leaving group of the kind conventionally employed for such a nucleophilic reaction of amide formation. Typically, the leaving group Y is a halogen atom such as chlorine, bromine or iodine; an alkanesulphonyloxy group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms in the alkane group, such as a methanesulphonyloxy or ethanesulphonyloxy group; a haloalkanesulphonyloxy group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms in the alkane group and 1 to 6 halo substituents, such as a trifluoromethanesulphonyloxy or pentafluoroethanesulphonyloxy group; or an arylsulphonyloxy group optionally having from 1 to 3 alkyl substituents each having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms, such as a benzenesulphonyloxy or p-toluenesulphonyloxy group. For preference, the group Y is a halogen atom.

The identity of the inert solvent is not particularly limited, provided that the solvent does not affect the reaction and can dissolve the starting materials to some extent. Examples of preferred solvents include aromatic hydrocarbons such as benzene, toluene or xylene; halohydrocarbons such as methylene chloride or chloroform; or ethers such as diethyl ether, diisopropyl ether, tetrahydrofuran or dioxane.

The identity of the base is also not particularly limited, provided that the base is effective in such a reaction. Examples of preferred bases include organic base such as triethylamine, tributylamine, diisopropylethylamine, N-methylmorpholine, pyridine, 4-(N,N-dimethylamino)pyridine, N,N-dimethylaniline, N,N-diethylaniline, 1,5-diazabicyclo[4.3.0]nona-5-ene, 1,4-diazabicyclo[2.2.2]octane (DABCO) or 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene (DBU).

The reaction of amide formation may be encouraged to proceed more effectively by the addition of a quarternary ammonium salt such as benzyltriethylammonium chloride or tetrabutylammonium chloride, or a crown ether such as dibenzyl-18-crown-6.

The reaction is preferably carried out at a temperature from -10° to 50°C, more preferably at from 0° to 30°C, and usually takes from 1 to 3 hours, though the time varies with factors such as the reaction temperature, the identity of the starting compounds, reaction reagents and inert solvent.

After completion of the amide formation reaction, the desired compound of general formula (I') of the present invention can be obtained from the reaction mixture by the use of conventional isolation methods. For example, the

reaction mixture is suitably neutralized, and, after filtering off any insoluble matter off, a water-immiscible organic solvent is added. The solvent extract can then be separated, washed with water, and distilled to remove the solvent, thereby giving the target compound. If necessary, the target compound can be further purified by conventional techniques such as recrystallization, reprecipitation and/or chromatography.

One or more of the optional conversions can be effected. The order is not critical, and different deprotection reactions can be effected simultaneously. Isolation of the product of the amide reaction may not be necessary before the conversion can be carried out.

The optional conversion (1), where a nitro group is converted to an amino group, can be performed by customary methods available for reduction of nitro groups to amino groups. Suitable reduction methods include:

- (a) reaction using a metal such as sodium amalgam, or a transition metal such as tin, zinc, iron, titanium trichloride or tin dichloride. A suitable solvent system comprises aqueous methanol, aqueous acetone, aqueous tetrahydrofuran, usually with hydrochloric acid and optionally with the inclusion of ammonium chloride. Examples of solvents include ammonium chloride/water - methanol or water - hydrochloric acid - acetone;
- (b) reaction using a hydride such as an alkali metal borohydride, for example sodium borohydride or lithium borohydride; an aluminium hydride, for example lithium aluminium hydride or lithium triethoxyaluminumhydride; or another hydride reagent, for example sodium tellurium hydride, in an ether such as ether or tetrahydrofuran, or in a mixed solvent thereof. Additionally in the case of using sodium borohydride or sodium tellurium hydride, the solvent can be an alcohol such as methanol or ethanol;
- (c) catalytic reduction at room temperature using a catalyst such as palladium-carbon, platinum or Raney nickel in an alcohol such as methanol or ethanol, an ether such as tetrahydrofuran or dioxane, a fatty acid such as acetic acid, or a mixed solvent thereof with water;
- (d) reaction using a Lewis acid such as aluminium chloride, tin tetrachloride or titanium tetrachloride together with a hydrogenated silyl compound such as hydrotriethylsilane or hydrotriphenylsilane; or
- (e) reduction by a radical reducing agent such as hydrotributyltin, hydrotriphenyltin or hydrodibutyltin together with a radical initiator such as azobisisobutyronitrile or triphenylboron as a catalyst.

Of these methods, a conventional catalytic reduction according to method (c) is preferred.

The optional conversion (2), where an amino protecting group is removed, and also that part of optional conversion (3) where an amino protecting group is removed, can be performed by customary methods which vary depending on the nature of the actual protecting group.

Where the amino protecting group is a silyl group, it can be removed by treatment with a compound capable of generating a fluoride anion, such as tetrabutylammonium fluoride. The treatment is typically effected in a solvent. The identity of the solvent is not particularly limited provided that it does not affect the reaction. An ether such as tetrahydrofuran or dioxane is preferably employed. The reaction temperature and reaction time are also not particularly limited, and usually the silyl deprotection reaction is carried out at room temperature requiring from 10 to 18 hours.

Where the amino protecting group is an aliphatic acyl group, an aromatic acyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group or a substituted methylene group forming a Schiff base, deprotection can be effected by treatment with an acid or a base in the presence of an aqueous solvent. When an acid is used, the identity of the acid is not particularly limited, and preferably is an inorganic acid such as hydrochloric acid, sulphuric acid, phosphoric acid or hydrobromic acid. When a base is used, the identity of the base is not particularly limited, provided that it does not affect the rest of the compound, and preferably is a metal alkoxide such as sodium methoxide; an alkali metal carbonate such as sodium carbonate or potassium carbonate; an alkali metal hydroxide such as sodium hydroxide or potassium hydroxide; or ammonia such as in the form of aqueous ammonia solution or concentrated ammonia-methanol. The choice of solvent is not particularly limited, typically being one usually employed for hydrolytic reactions, and is preferably water; an organic solvent, for example an alcohol such as methanol, ethanol or propanol, or an ether such as tetrahydrofuran or dioxane; or a mixed solvent of water and an organic solvent. The suitable reaction temperature and reaction time will vary depending on the starting materials and acid or base employed and are thus not particularly restricted. In order to minimize side reactions, the deprotection is usually carried out at from 0° to 150°C requiring from 1 to 10 hours.

Where the amino protecting group is an aralkyl group or an aralkyloxycarbonyl group, there is a variety of deprotection methods which can be employed. In general, it can be removed by contact with a reducing agent in a solvent, preferably by catalytic reduction using a catalyst at room temperature, by using an oxidizing agent, by treatment with an alkali metal, or by treatment with a halide.

The selection of a solvent for deprotection by catalytic reduction is not particularly limited provided that it does not participate in the reaction, and is preferably an alcohol such as methanol, ethanol or isopropanol; an ether such as diethyl ether, tetrahydrofuran or dioxane; an aromatic hydrocarbon such as toluene, benzene or xylene; an aliphatic hydrocarbon such as hexane or cyclohexane; an ester such as ethyl acetate or propyl acetate; a fatty acid such as acetic acid; or a mixed solvent thereof with water. The choice of catalyst is also not particularly restricted and can be

one usually employed for catalytic reduction, such as palladium-carbon, Raney nickel, platinum oxide, platinum black, rhodium-aluminium oxide, triphenylphosphine-rhodium chloride or palladium-barium sulphate. The pressure for the reduction is not particularly limited, the reaction is carried out usually under from 1 to 10 atmospheres. The reaction temperature and reaction time can vary depending on the starting materials and the kind of catalyst employed, but the reaction is usually conducted at from 0° to 100°C requiring from 5 minutes to 24 hours.

For an oxidative deprotection, the choice of solvent is not particularly limited provided that it does not participate in the reaction. The preferred solvent is an aqueous organic solvent, for which the organic solvent may be a ketone such as acetone; a halohydrocarbon such as methylene chloride, chloroform or carbon tetrachloride; a nitrile such as acetonitrile; an ether such as diethyl ether, tetrahydrofuran or dioxane; an amide such as dimethylformamide, dimethylacetamide or hexamethylphosphorotriamide; or a sulfoxide such as dimethylsulphoxide. The oxidizing agent is typically one employed for this kind of reaction and thus the choice is not particularly limited, being for example potassium persulphate, sodium persulphate, cerium ammonium nitrate (CAN) or 2,3-dichloro-5,6-dicyano-p-benzoquinone (DDQ). The reaction temperature and reaction time can vary depending on the starting materials and the kind of oxidizing reagent employed, but the reaction is generally performed at from 0° to 150°C requiring from 10 minutes to 24 hours.

For deprotection using an alkali metal, the reaction is suitably performed with an alkali metal such as lithium metal or sodium metal in an alcohol such as methanol or ethanol, preferably at from -78° to -20°C.

For deprotection by treatment with a halide, suitable reagents include aluminium chloride-sodium iodide or an alkylsilyl halide such as trimethylsilyl iodide in a solvent. The choice of solvent is not particularly limited provided that it does not participate in the reaction. The preferred solvent is a nitrile such as acetonitrile; a halogenohydrocarbon such as methylene chloride or chloroform; or a mixed solvent thereof. The reaction temperature and reaction time can vary depending on the starting materials, but in general the reaction is conducted at from 0° to 50°C requiring from 5 minutes to 3 days.

Where the amino protecting group is an alkenyloxycarbonyl group, it can generally be removed by treatment with a base under conditions similar to those already mentioned as appropriate for deprotection when the protecting group is an aliphatic acyl group, an aromatic acyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group or a substituted methylene group forming a Schiff base.

Where the amino protecting group is an allyloxycarbonyl group, it can be easily removed with minimal side reactions by use of palladium together with triphenylcarbonyl or with nickel tetracarbonyl.

After completion of the one or more optional conversions, the desired compound of general formula (I) of the present invention can be obtained from the reaction mixture by the use of conventional isolation methods. For example, a water-immiscible organic solvent is added to give a solvent extract which may be washed with water, and distilled to remove the solvent, thereby giving the target compound. If necessary, the target compound can be further purified by conventional techniques such as recrystallization, reprecipitation and/or chromatography.

The reactive carboxylic acid derivative of general formula (II) required as starting material for the process provided by the present invention can be prepared from the corresponding parent carboxylic acid, for example by conventional halogenation. Such halogenation is typically performed by treatment with a conventional halogenating agent. The halogenating agent is preferably a thionyl halide such as thionyl chloride, thionyl bromide or thionyl iodide; a sulphuryl halide such as sulphuryl chloride, sulphuryl bromide or sulphuryl iodide; a phosphorus trihalide such as phosphorus trichloride, phosphorus tribromide or phosphorus triiodide; a phosphorus pentahalide such as phosphorus pentachloride, phosphorus pentabromide or phosphorus pentaiodide; or a phosphorus oxyhalide such as phosphorus oxychloride, phosphorus oxybromide or phosphorus oxyiodide. A phosphorus oxyhalide is especially preferred as the halogenating agent.

The parent acid itself will be a known compound or one which can easily be prepared by known methods. A carboxylic acid such as 3-nitro-4-aminocinnamic acid having a nitro and an amino substituent can be synthesized, for example, according to the method described in *Annalen Chimica* 48, 958-991 (1958) or in *Chem. Ber.* 16, 2042. A carboxylic acid such as 3-nitro-4-hydroxycinnamic acid having a nitro and a hydroxy substituent can be synthesized, for example, according to the method described in *J. Chem. Soc.* 3072 (1952) or in *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 79, 4114 (1957). A carboxylic acid having two amino substituents, or a carboxylic acid having an amino and a hydroxy substituent, can be prepared by reduction of a corresponding nitro compound.

Carboxylic acid compounds having more carbon atoms can be prepared by analogous methods or by methods relying on extension of the carbon chain. For example, a known aminocinnamic acid or hydroxycinnamic acid can be protected at the respective amino or hydroxy group, subjected to a carbon chain extension reaction, nitrated, and deprotected, followed optionally by reduction of the nitro substituent.

Various conventional reactions are available for increasing the number of carbons in the carboxylic acid. Typically, a starting carboxylic acid is reduced to the corresponding alcohol, then the hydroxy group is activated to form a leaving group such as a halogen atom, for example a chlorine, bromine or iodine atom; an alkanesulphonyloxy group, for example a methanesulphonyloxy or ethanesulphonyloxy group; a haloalkanesulphonyloxy group, for example a trif-

fluoromethanesulphonyloxy or pentafluoroethanesulphonyloxy group; or an arylsulphonyloxy group, for example a benzenesulphonyloxy or p-toluenesulphonyloxy group, and then the carbon chain of the thereby activated compound is increased by one or two carbon atoms by adoption of one of the following procedures, usually effected at a temperature of from -78°C to 50°C).

As a method for increasing by one the carbon chain of the activated compound, there may be mentioned:

- (1) use of 1,3-dicyan;
- (2) use of a metal cyanide;
- (3) reaction with carbon dioxide after preparation of a Grignard reagent.

As a method for increasing by two the carbon chain of the activated compound, there may be mentioned:

- (1) use of a malonic acid derivative;
- (2) acidolysis by use of an acetoacetic acid derivative.

The method using 1,3-dicyan can be performed by reaction of 1,3-dicyan with an organic or inorganic base, such as sodium hydride, potassium methoxide, potassium hydroxide or lithium diisopropyl nitride, in an ether such as diethyl ether, diisopropyl ether, tetrahydrofuran or dioxane in an inert gas atmosphere such as nitrogen, to give its metal salt, which is then reacted with the activated compound, further followed by hydrolysis using a strong acid such as hydrochloric acid.

The method using a metal cyanide can be carried out by reaction of a metal cyanide with the activated compound to form the corresponding cyano compound followed by hydrolysis by conventional means.

The method by reaction with carbon dioxide after preparation of a Grignard reagent can be effected by preparing a Grignard reagent from the activated compound by conventional means followed by reaction with carbon dioxide in accordance with customary techniques.

The method by use of a malonic acid derivative can be carried out by reaction of a malonic acid derivative with a metal base in an ether such as diethyl ether, diisopropyl ether, tetrahydrofuran or dioxane to form the metal salt, followed by reaction with the activated compound by conventional means, further followed by decarbonation and/or hydrolysis. The choice of the metal base may depend on the pKa of the malonic acid derivative, but is suitably an inorganic base, for example an alkali metal carbonate such as sodium carbonate or potassium carbonate; an alkali metal hydride such as lithium hydride, sodium hydride or potassium hydride; or an alkali metal hydroxide such as sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide or barium hydroxide; an organic metal base like an alkali metal alkoxide such as sodium methoxide or sodium ethoxide; butyllithium; or lithium diisopropylamide.

The acidolytic method using an acetoacetic acid derivative can be performed by reaction of an acetoacetic acid derivative with a metal base such as one of those mentioned for the malonic acid method, in an ether such as diethyl ether, diisopropyl ether, tetrahydrofuran or dioxane, to form the metal salt at its methylene moiety, followed by reaction with the activated compound by conventional means, further followed by hydrolysis using an acid.

The Wittig reaction can also be used and represents a general method for increasing by any desired number of carbon atoms the length of the carbon chain of the carboxylic acid. When this method is employed, a carboxylic acid having a double bond at a desired position can be obtained, or alternatively the double bond can be removed by reduction. The Wittig reaction is suitably carried out by reaction of a Wittig reagent with an appropriate aldehyde, followed by the optional reduction of the double bond in the resultant product according to conventional procedures.

By a suitable combination of such reactions, a carboxylic acid of the desired chain length and desired degree of unsaturation can be synthesized.

Nitration of the carboxylic acid to introduce a nitro group is conveniently performed by conventional means. For example, it can be carried out by use of a nitrate derivative capable of introducing a nitro group, such as fuming nitric acid at from room temperature to 50°C in an acid solvent such as acetic acid - acetic anhydride.

The following Examples illustrate the preparation of compounds of the invention from known starting compounds or from starting compounds which may be prepared using procedures analogous to those employed for known compounds. Reference Examples are included for the preparation of some starting compounds. A Formulation Example is also given. The compounds of Examples 1-21, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 35, 36, 38, 39, 41, 42, 44-49 and 51-56 are not compounds of the present invention.

#### EXAMPLE 1

##### N-(1-Adamantyl)-4-acetoxy-3-nitrocinnamamide

1 g of 4-acetoxy-3-nitrocinnamic acid (prepared as described in Preparation 2) was dissolved in 30 ml of methylene

chloride. One drop of dimethylformamide was added to the resulting solution, and the mixture was cooled to 0°C. 3 g of oxalyl chloride were added to the mixture, which was then warmed to room temperature, after which it was stirred for 2 hours. At the end of this time, the solvent was completely removed by distillation under reduced pressure. The resulting residue was dissolved in 20 ml of methylene chloride, 0.6 g of 1-adamantylamine and 0.4 g of triethylamine were added, and the mixture was stirred for 3 hours. Ethyl acetate was then added to the solution, which was then washed with water, with a dilute aqueous solution of sodium hydrogencarbonate and with a saturated aqueous solution of sodium chloride, in that order. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate, and the solvent was removed by distillation under reduced pressure. The resulting residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography, using 1:1 ethyl acetate:n-hexane as the eluent, to afford 1.2 g of the title compound, melting at 179 - 180°C.

## EXAMPLE 2

### N-(1-Adamantyl)-4-hydroxy-3-nitrocinnamamide

1 g of N-(1-adamantyl)-4-acetoxy-3-nitrocinnamamide (prepared as described in Example 1) was dissolved in 30 ml of methanol; 30 ml of a 4N aqueous solution of sodium hydroxide were then added, and the resulting mixture was stirred for 3 hours at room temperature. At the end of this time, the methanol was removed by distillation under reduced pressure. Addition of 3N aqueous hydrochloric acid to the residue afforded crystals of the title compound, melting at 162 - 163°C.

## EXAMPLE 3

### N-(1-Adamantyl)-3-(3-amino-4-hydroxyphenyl)propionamide

Crystals of N-(1-adamantyl)-4-hydroxy-3-nitrocinnamamide, prepared as described in Example 2, were collected by filtration and dissolved in 30 ml of methanol. 300 mg of 10% palladium-on-carbon were added to the solution, which was then reduced catalytically whilst bubbling hydrogen through it, under atmospheric pressure for 60 minutes. At the end of this time, the catalyst was filtered off, and the methanol was removed by distillation under reduced pressure. The resulting residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography, using ethyl acetate as the eluent, to afford 0.78 g of the title compound as crystals, melting at 79 - 80°C.

## EXAMPLE 4

### N,N-Diethyl-4-acetoxy-3-nitrocinnamamide

Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 1, but using 400 mg of diethylamine, 950 mg of the title compound were obtained as an oily substance.  
Rf value: 0.85 (developed with ethyl acetate).

## EXAMPLE 5

### N,N-Diethyl-4-hydroxy-3-nitrocinnamamide

Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 2, but using 900 mg of N,N-diethyl-4-acetoxy-3-nitrocinnamamide (prepared as described in Example 4), 750 mg of the title compound were obtained as an oily substance.  
Rf value: 0.5 (developed with ethyl acetate : hexane, 1 : 1 by volume).

## EXAMPLE 6

### N,N-Diethyl-3-(4-hydroxy-3-aminophenyl)propionamide

Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 3, but using 700 mg of N,N-diethyl-4-hydroxy-3-nitrocinnamamide (prepared as described in Example 5), 550 mg of the title compound were obtained, melting at 92 - 93°C.

EXAMPLE 7N,N-Diphenyl-4-acetoxy-3-nitrocinnamamide

5 Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 1, but using 600 mg of diphenylamine, 1000 mg of the title compound were obtained, melting at 170.5 - 171.5°C.

EXAMPLE 8N,N-Diphenyl-4-hydroxy-3-nitrocinnamamide

10 Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 2, but using 950 mg of N,N-diphenyl-4-acetoxy-3-nitrocinnamamide (prepared as described in Example 7), 700 mg of the title compound were obtained, melting at 197 - 198°C.

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EXAMPLE 9N,N-Diphenyl-3-(4-hydroxy-3-aminophenyl)propionamide

20 Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 3, but using 650 mg of N,N-diphenyl-4-hydroxy-3-nitrocinnamamide (prepared as described in Example 8), 450 mg of the title compound were obtained, melting at 170.5 - 171.5°C.

EXAMPLE 10

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N-[2-(3-Methoxycarbonyltetrahydrobenzothienyl)]-4-acetoxy-3-nitrocinnamamide

Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 1, but using 800 mg of 2-amino-3-methoxycarbonyltetrahydrobenzothiophene, 1000 mg of the title compound were obtained, melting at 184 - 185°C.

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EXAMPLE 11N-[2-(3-Methoxycarbonyltetrahydrobenzothienyl)]-4-hydroxy-3-nitrocinnamamide

35 Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 2, but using 950 mg of N-[2-(3-methoxycarbonyltetrahydrobenzothienyl)]-4-acetoxy-3-nitrocinnamamide (prepared as described in Example 10), 600 mg of the title compound were obtained, melting at 223 - 224°C.

EXAMPLE 12

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N-(4-Benzoyloxy-3-nitrocinnamoyl)piperidine

Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 1, but using 1 g of 4-benzoyloxy-3-nitrocinnamic acid and 400 mg of piperidine, 0.8 g of the title compound were obtained, melting at 155 - 156°C.

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EXAMPLE 13N-[3-(4-Hydroxy-3-aminophenyl)propionyl]piperidine

50 0.5 g of N-(4-benzoyloxy-3-nitrocinnamoyl)-piperidine (prepared as described in Example 12) was dissolved in 30 ml of methanol. 300 mg of 10% palladium-on-carbon were added to the solution, which was then catalytically reduced whilst bubbling hydrogen through it, under atmospheric pressure for 60 minutes. The catalyst was then removed by filtration, and the methanol was removed by distillation under reduced pressure. The resulting residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography, using ethyl acetate as the eluent, to afford 0.35 g of the title compound as crystals, melting at 149 - 150°C.

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**EXAMPLE 14****N-Isobutyl-4-benzyloxy-3-nitrocinnamamide**

- 5 Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 1, but using 400 mg of isobutylamine, 850 mg of the title compound were obtained, melting at 166 - 167°C.

**EXAMPLE 15**

- 10 **N-Isobutyl-3-(4-hydroxy-3-aminophenyl)propionamide**

Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 13, but using 800 mg of N-isobutyl-4-benzyloxy-3-nitrocinnamamide (prepared as described in Example 14), 600 mg of the title compound were obtained as an oily substance.

- 15 R<sub>f</sub> value: 0.19 (developed with ethyl acetate).

**EXAMPLE 16****N-(2,4-Dichlorophenyl)-4-benzyloxy-3-nitrocinnamamide**

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Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 12, but using 600 mg of 2,4-dichloroaniline, 900 mg of the title compound were obtained, melting at 152 - 153°C.

**EXAMPLE 17**

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**N-(2,4-Dichlorophenyl)-3-(4-hydroxy-3-aminophenyl)-propionamide**

Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 13, but using 850 mg of N-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-4-benzyloxy-3-nitrocinnamamide (prepared as described in Example 16), 650 mg of the title compound were obtained, melting at 130 - 131°C.

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**EXAMPLE 18****N-(2,5-Dimethylphenyl)-4-benzyloxy-3-nitrocinnamamide**

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Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 12, but using 600 mg of 2,5-dimethylaniline, 850 mg of the title compound were obtained as an oily substance.

R<sub>f</sub> value: 0.90 (developed with ethyl acetate).

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**EXAMPLE 19****N-(2,5-Dimethylphenyl)-3-(4-hydroxy-3-aminophenyl)-propionamide**

Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 13, but using 800 mg of N-(2,5-dimethylphenyl)-4-benzyloxy-3-nitrocinnamamide (prepared as described in Example 18), 600 mg of the title compound were obtained, melting at 162 - 163°C.

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**EXAMPLE 20****N-(1-Adamantyl)-3-(3-nitro-4-trifluoroacetamidophenyl)propionamide**

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1 g of 3-(3-nitro-4-trifluoroacetamidophenyl)-propionic acid (prepared as described in Preparation 5) was dissolved in 30 ml of methylene chloride. One drop of dimethylformamide was added to the resulting solution, which was then cooled to 0°C. 3 g of oxalyl chloride were then added to the solution, and after the temperature had increased to ambient, the resulting mixture was stirred for 2 hours. The solvent was then completely removed by distillation under reduced pressure, and the residue was dissolved in 20 ml of methylene chloride. 0.6 g of 1-adamantylamine and 0.4 g of triethylamine were then added to the resulting solution, which was then stirred for 3 hours. At the end of this time, ethyl acetate was added to the solution, which was then washed with water, with a dilute aqueous solution of sodium

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hydrogencarbonate and with a saturated aqueous solution of sodium chloride, in that order. The organic layer was separated and dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate. The solvent was then removed by distillation under reduced pressure. The resulting residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography, using ethyl acetate as the eluent, to afford 1.0 g of the title compound as an oily substance.

Rf value: 0.71 (developed with ethyl acetate).

**EXAMPLE 21**N-(1-Adamantyl)-3-(3-nitro-4-aminophenyl)propionamide

0.5 g of N-(1-Adamantyl)-3-(3-nitro-4-trifluoroacetamidophenyl)propionamide (prepared as described in Example 20) was dissolved in 10 ml of methanol. 10 ml of a 2N aqueous solution of sodium hydroxide were then added to the solution, which was then stirred for 3 hours at room temperature. At the end of this time, the methanol was removed by distillation under reduced pressure. Extraction of the residue with ethyl acetate afforded the title compound as an oily substance.

Rf value: 0.38 (developed with ethyl acetate : hexane, 1 : 1 by volume).

**EXAMPLE 22**N-(1-Adamantyl)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamide

500 mg of N-(1-adamantyl)-3-(3-nitro-4-aminophenyl)propionamide (prepared as described in Example 21) was dissolved in 20 ml of methanol. 200 mg of 10% w/w palladium-on-carbon was added to the solution, which was then catalytically reduced whilst bubbling hydrogen through it, under atmospheric pressure for 120 minutes. The catalyst was then removed by filtration, and the methanol was removed by distillation under reduced pressure. The resulting residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography, using 19:1 ethyl acetate:methanol as the eluent, to afford 0.21 g of the title compound as crystals, melting at 151 - 152°C.

**EXAMPLE 23**N-(2,4-Dichlorophenyl)-3-(3-nitro-4-trifluoroacetamidophenyl)propionamide

Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 20, but using 800 mg of 2,4-dichloroaniline, 800 mg of the title compound were obtained, melting at 193 - 194°C.

**EXAMPLE 24**N-(2,4-Dichlorophenyl)-3-(3-nitro-4-aminophenyl)-propionamide

Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 21, but using 700 mg of N-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-3-(3-nitro-4-trifluoroacetamidophenyl)propionamide (prepared as described in Example 23), 350 mg of the title compound were obtained, melting at 164 - 165°C.

**EXAMPLE 25**N-(2,4-Dichlorophenyl)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamide

Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 22, but using 300 mg of N-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-3-(3-nitro-4-aminophenyl)propionamide (prepared as described in Example 24), 150 mg of the title compound were obtained, melting at 149 - 150°C.

**EXAMPLE 26**N-[3-(3-Nitro-4-trifluoroacetamidophenyl)-propionyl]morpholine

Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 20, but using 400 mg of morpholine, 900 mg of the title compound were obtained as an oily substance.

Rf value: 0.50 (developed with ethyl acetate).

**EXAMPLE 27**N-[3-(3-Nitro-4-aminophenyl)propionyl]morpholine

Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 21, but using 800 mg of N-[3-(3-nitro-4-trifluoroacetamidophenyl)propionyl]morpholine (prepared as described in Example 26), 600 mg of the title compound were obtained as an oily substance.

Rf value: 0.50 (developed with ethyl acetate : hexane, 1 : 1 by volume).

**EXAMPLE 28**N-[3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionyl]morpholine

Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 22, but using 500 mg of N-[3-(3-nitro-4-aminophenyl)propionyl]morpholine (prepared as described in Example 27), 300 mg of the title compound were obtained as an oily substance.

Rf value: 0.37 (developed with ethyl acetate : methanol, 4 : 1 by volume).

**EXAMPLE 29**N,N-Diethyl-3-(3-nitro-4-trifluoroacetamidophenyl)propionamide

Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 20, but using 400 mg of diethylamine, 1000 mg of the title compound were obtained as an oily substance.

Rf value: 0.70 (developed with ethyl acetate).

**EXAMPLE 30**N,N-Diethyl-3-(3-nitro-4-aminophenyl)propionamide

Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 21, but using 900 mg of N,N-diethyl-3-(3-nitro-4-trifluoroacetamidophenyl)propionamide (prepared as described in Example 29), 600 mg of the title compound were obtained, melting at 98 - 99°C.

**EXAMPLE 31**N,N-Diethyl-3-(3,4-Diaminophenyl)propionamide

Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 22, but using 550 mg of N,N-diethyl-3-(3-nitro-4-aminophenyl)propionamide (prepared as described in Example 30), 300 mg of the title compound were obtained as crystals.

Rf value: 0.53 (developed with ethyl acetate : methanol, 4 : 1 by volume).

**EXAMPLE 32**N-(3-Quinoly)-3-(3-nitro-4-trifluoroacetamidophenyl)propionamide

Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 20, but using 700 mg of 3-aminoquinoline, 900 mg of the title compound were obtained as an oily substance.

Rf value: 0.50 (developed with ethyl acetate).

**EXAMPLE 33**N-(3-Quinoly)-3-(3-nitro-4-aminophenyl)propionamide

Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 21, but using 850 mg of N-(3-quinoly)-3-(3-nitro-4-trifluoroacetamidophenyl)propionamide (prepared as described in Example 32), 600 mg of the title compound were obtained, melting at 219.5 - 220.5°C.

**EXAMPLE 34**N-(3-Quinoly)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamide

- 5 Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 22, but using 500 mg of N-(3-quinoly)-3-(3-nitro-4-amino-phenyl)propionamide (prepared as described in Example 33), 300 mg of the title compound were obtained as crystals.  
Rf value: 0.42 (developed with ethyl acetate : methanol, 4 : 1 by volume).

10 **EXAMPLE 35**N-(2,5-Dimethylphenyl)-3-(3-nitro-4-trifluoroacetamidophenyl)propionamide

- 15 Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 20, but using 600 mg of 2,5-dimethylaniline, 900 mg of the title compound were obtained as an oily substance.  
Rf value: 0.45 (developed with ethyl acetate : hexane, 1 : 1 by volume).

**EXAMPLE 36**20 N-(2,5-Dimethylphenyl)-(4-amino-3-nitrophenyl)propionamide

- Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 21, but using 800 mg of N-(2,5-dimethylphenyl)-3-(3-nitro-4-trifluoroacetamidophenyl)propionamide (prepared as described in Example 35), 600 mg of the title compound were obtained, melting at 187-188°C.

25 **EXAMPLE 37**N-(2,5-Dimethylphenyl)-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamide

- 30 Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 22, but using 500 mg of N-(2,5-dimethylphenyl)-(4-amino-3-nitrophenyl)propionamide (prepared as described in Example 36), 300 mg of the title compound were obtained, melting at 120-121°C.

**EXAMPLE 38**35 N,N-Diphenyl-3-(3-nitro-4-trifluoroacetamidophenyl)propionamide

- Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 20, but using 600 mg of diphenylamine, 950 mg of the title compound were obtained as an oily substance.  
40 Rf value: 0.56 (developed with ethyl acetate : hexane, 1 : 1 by volume).

**EXAMPLE 39**45 N,N-Diphenyl-3-(4-amino-3-nitrophenyl)propionamide

- Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 21, but using 900 mg of N,N-diphenyl-3-(3-nitro-4-trifluoroacetamidophenyl)propionamide (prepared as described in Example 38), 750 mg of the title compound were obtained, melting at 189-190°C.

50 **EXAMPLE 40**N,N-Diphenyl-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamide

- 55 Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 22, but using 600 mg of N,N-diphenyl-3-(4-amino-3-nitrophenyl)propionamide (prepared as described in Example 39), 300 mg of the title compound were obtained, melting at 122-123°C.

**EXAMPLE 41**N-(4-Benzoylphenyl)-3-(3-nitro-4-trifluoroacetamidophenyl)propionamide

Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 20, but using 800 mg of 4-benzoylaniline, 1.1 g of the title compound were obtained as an oily substance.

Rf value: 0.63 (developed with ethyl acetate : hexane, 3 : 2 by volume).

**EXAMPLE 42**N-(4-Benzoylphenyl)-3-(4-amino-3-nitrophenyl)propionamide

Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 21, but using 1.0 g of N-(4-benzoylphenyl)-3-(3-nitro-4-trifluoroacetamidophenyl)propionamide (prepared as described in Example 41), 800 mg of the title compound were obtained, melting at 72-73°C.

**EXAMPLE 43**N-(4-Benzoylphenyl)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamide

Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 22, but using 700 mg of N-(4-benzoylphenyl)-3-(4-amino-3-nitrophenyl)propionamide (prepared as described in Example 42), 500 mg of the title compound were obtained, melting at 156-157°C.

**EXAMPLE 44**N-([3-(3-Nitro-4-trifluoroacetamidophenyl)-propionyl]piperidine

Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 20, but using 400 mg of piperidine, 800 mg of the title compound were obtained, melting at 102-103°C.

**EXAMPLE 45**N-[3-(4-Amino-3-nitrophenyl)propionyl]piperidine

Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 21, but using 700 mg of N-([3-(3-nitro-4-trifluoroacetamidophenyl)propionyl]piperidine (prepared as described in Example 44), 500 mg of the title compound were obtained, melting at 140-141°C.

**EXAMPLE 46**N-[3-(3,4-Diaminophenyl)propionyl]piperidine

Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 22, but using 400 mg of N-[3-(4-amino-3-nitrophenyl)propionyl]piperidine (prepared as described in Example 45), 200 mg of the title compound were obtained as an oily substance.

Rf value: 0.37 (developed with ethyl acetate : methanol, 9 : 1 by volume).

**EXAMPLE 47**N-Methyl-N-phenyl-3-(3-nitro-4-trifluoroacetamidophenyl)propionamide

Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 20, but using 500 mg of N-methylaniline, 1.1 g of the title compound were obtained as an oily substance.

Rf value: 0.40 (developed with a 1:1 mixture of ethyl acetate and n-hexane).

**EXAMPLE 48**N-Methyl-N-phenyl-3-(4-amino-3-nitrophenyl)propionamide

- 5 Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 21, but using 900 mg of N-methyl-N-phenyl-3-(3-nitro-4-trifluoroacetamidophenyl)propionamide (prepared as described in Example 47), 700 mg of the title compound were obtained as an oily substance.  
Rf value: 0.33 (developed with ethyl acetate : hexane, 1 : 1 by volume).

10 **EXAMPLE 49**N-Methyl-N-phenyl-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamide

- 15 Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 22, but using 600 mg of N-methyl-N-phenyl-3-(4-amino-3-nitrophenyl)propionamide (prepared as described in Example 48), 400 mg of the title compound were obtained as an oily substance.  
Rf value: 0.47 (developed with ethyl acetate : methanol, 9 : 1 by volume).

20 **EXAMPLE 50**N-(3-Quinoly)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamide hydrochloride

- 25 To a solution of 1 g of N-(3-quinoly)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamide (prepared as described in Example 34) in 20 ml of methanol were added 5 ml of 4 N hydrogen chloride in dioxane with ice-cooling, and the solvent was distilled off. The residue was recrystallized from a mixture of methanol and ether to afford 0.7 g of the desired compound, melting at 246-247°C.

30 **EXAMPLE 51**N-(1-Indanyl)-4-acetoxy-3-nitrocinnamamide

Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 1, but using 600 mg of 1-indanylamine, 1.0 g of the title compound were obtained, melting at 177-178°C.

35 **EXAMPLE 52**N-(1-Indanyl)-4-hydroxy-3-nitrocinnamamide

- 40 Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 2, but using 900 mg of N-(1-indanyl)-4-acetoxy-3-nitrocinnamamide (prepared as described in Example 51), 700 mg of the title compound were obtained, melting at 203-205°C.

**EXAMPLE 53**45 N-(1-Indanyl)-3-(4-hydroxy-3-aminophenyl)propionamide

Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 3, but using 600 mg of N-(1-indanyl)-4-hydroxy-3-nitrocinnamamide (prepared as described in Example 52), 400 mg of the title compound were obtained, melting at 130-131°C.

50 **EXAMPLE 54**N-(4-Acetoxy-3-nitrocinnamoyl)morpholine

- 55 Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 1, but using 400 mg of morpholine, 900 mg of the title compound were obtained as an oily substance.  
Rf value: 0.24 (developed with ethyl acetate : hexane, 1 : 1 by volume).

EXAMPLE 55N-(4-Hydroxy-3-nitrocinnamoyl)morpholine

Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 2, but using 800 mg of N-(4-acetoxy-3-nitrocinnamoyl)morpholine (prepared as described in Example 54), 600 mg of the title compound were obtained as an oily substance. Rf value: 0.24 (developed with ethyl acetate : hexane, 1 : 1 by volume).

EXAMPLE 56N-[3-(4-Hydroxy-3-aminophenyl)propionyl]morpholine

Following a procedure similar to that described in Example 3, but using 500 mg of N-(4-hydroxy-3-nitrocinnamoyl)morpholine (prepared as described in Example 55), 400 mg of the title compound were obtained as an oily substance. Rf value: 0.27 (developed with ethyl acetate).

PREPARATION 14-Hydroxy-3-nitrocinnamic acid

16.7 g of 4-hydroxy-3-nitrobenzaldehyde and 33.5 g of methyl triphenylphosphoranilideneacetate were dissolved in 100 ml of methylene chloride, and the resulting solution was stirred for 2 hours at room temperature. At the end of this time, the solvent was removed by distillation under reduced pressure. 300 ml of methanol and 18 g of sodium hydroxide were then added to the residue thus obtained, and the solution was heated under reflux for 2 hours. The methanol was then removed by distillation under reduced pressure. The residue was mixed with one liter of water, and insoluble matter was filtered off. The filtrate was acidified by the addition of 3N aqueous hydrochloric acid, and the crystals which separated were collected by filtration, and were dissolved in 500 ml of tetrahydrofuran. The solution was mixed with active charcoal, heated under reflux for 5 minutes and filtered whilst being kept warm. The solution was condensed to about 100 ml by evaporation under reduced pressure, and allowed to stand at room temperature to obtain 15.0 g of the title compound as a yellow solid.

PREPARATION 24-Acetoxy-3-nitrocinnamic acid

10 g of 4-hydroxy-3-nitrocinnamic acid (prepared as described in Preparation 1) were dissolved in 30 ml of acetic anhydride. One drop of sulphuric acid was added to the solution, which was then stirred for 2 hours at room temperature. 50 ml of water were added to the solution, and it was then stirred for a further 2 hours. At the end of this time, ethyl acetate was added, and the mixture was washed with water and with a saturated aqueous solution of sodium chloride, in that order, and then dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate. The solvent was removed by distillation under reduced pressure, and the residue was mixed with toluene; the remaining acetic acid was removed by azeotropic distillation to obtain 10.2 g of the title compound as crystals.

PREPARATION 3Ethyl 4-acetoaminophenylpropionate

10 g of ethyl 4-nitrocinnamate were dissolved in 100 ml of acetic acid, and 1 g of 10% w/w palladium-on-carbon was added to the solution, which was then reduced catalytically whilst bubbling hydrogen through it, under atmospheric pressure for 60 minutes. The catalyst was then removed by filtration, and the acetic acid was removed by distillation under reduced pressure. The residue thus obtained was mixed with 50 ml of acetic anhydride, and the resulting solution was allowed to stand overnight at room temperature. At the end of this time, the solvent was removed by distillation under reduced pressure. Purification by silica gel column chromatography afforded 7.8 g of the title compound as crystals.

PREPARATION 43-(4-Amino-3-nitrophenyl)propionic acid

5 5 g of ethyl 4-acetoaminophenylpropionate (prepared as described in Preparation 3) were dissolved in 30 ml of acetic acid and 30 ml of acetic anhydride. 10 ml of fuming nitric acid (specific gravity: 1.5) were then added dropwise to the solution at 40°C, which required 1 hour. The reaction mixture was then dropped into 300 ml of ice water. The crystals which separated were collected by filtration, and, after the addition of 30 ml of concentrated hydrochloric acid and 30 ml of acetic acid, were heated under reflux for 8 hours. The solvent was then removed by distillation under reduced pressure. Purification by silica gel column chromatography, using ethyl acetate as the eluent, afforded 2.2 g of the title compound, as an oil.

The product had an  $R_f$  value of 0.62 by thin layer chromatography on silica gel when eluted with ethyl acetate.

PREPARATION 53-(3-Nitro-4-trifluoroacetamidophenyl)propionic acid

2 g of 3-(4-amino-3-nitrophenyl)propionic acid (prepared as described in Preparation 4) were dissolved in 10 ml of trifluoroacetic anhydride. The solution was then stirred for 2 hours at room temperature, after which it was mixed with ethyl acetate, washed with water, and with a saturated aqueous solution of sodium chloride and dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate. The solvent was removed by distillation under reduced pressure, the residue was mixed with toluene and the remaining trifluoroacetic acid was removed by azeotropic distillation, to obtain 1.5 g of the title compound as crystals.

FORMULATIONCapsule preparation

Powders of the following ingredients were thoroughly mixed and passed through a 60 mesh sieve (Tyler standard):

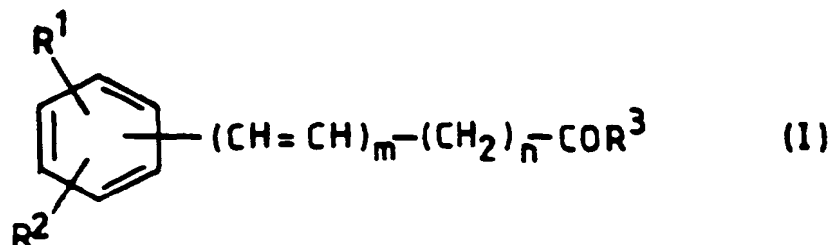
N-(1-Adamantyl)-3-(3-amino-4-hydroxyphenyl)propionamide (prepared as described in Example 3)	25.0 mg
Lactose	153.6 mg
Corn starch	100.0 mg
Magnesium stearate	1.4 mg
Total	280.0 mg

280 mg of the resulting powder was put into a No. 3 gelatin capsule to make capsules.

**Claims**

Claims for the following Contracting States : GB, DE, FR, IT, CH, BE, NL, SE, LU, LI, AT, MC, PT

1. A compound of the general formula (I):





wherein:

R<sup>1</sup> represents an amino group or a protected amino group;

R<sup>2</sup> represents an amino group or a protected amino group;

R<sup>3</sup> represents a substituted amino group substituted by 1 or 2 groups selected from the members of Substituent Group A', or a N-containing heterocyclic group having a ring nitrogen atom as the point of binding, where Substituent Group A' consists of the following members: straight or branched chain alkyl groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, 5- to 10-membered optionally bridged saturated cyclic hydrocarbon group, 6- to 10-membered aromatic cyclic hydrocarbon groups optionally fused with a cycloalkyl group and optionally substituted by 1 or 2 groups selected from the members of Substituent Group B and Substituent Group C, heterocyclic groups, and heterocyclic groups substituted by 1 or 2 groups selected from the members of Substituent Group B and Substituent Group C;

m represents an integer from 0 to 2;

n represents an integer from 0 to 6;

Substituent Group B consists of the following members: halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, alkoxycarbonyl groups, a nitro group, a cyano group, arylcarbonyl, aralkylcarbonyl groups;

Substituent Group C consists of the following members: straight or branched chain alkyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, haloalkyl groups containing 1 to 3 halogen atoms, and cycloalkyl groups;

heterocyclic groups comprise 5- to 7-membered heterocyclic groups containing from 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from nitrogen atoms, oxygen atoms and sulphur atoms, optionally fused with 1 or 2 aryl rings;

cycloalkyl groups comprise 3- to 10-membered optionally bridged saturated cyclic hydrocarbon groups;

aryl groups comprise 6- to 14-membered aromatic cyclic hydrocarbon groups optionally fused with a cycloalkyl group;

aralkyl groups comprise alkyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms substituted by 1 to 3 aryl groups;

halogen atoms comprise fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine atoms;

alkoxy groups comprise straight or branched chain alkoxy groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

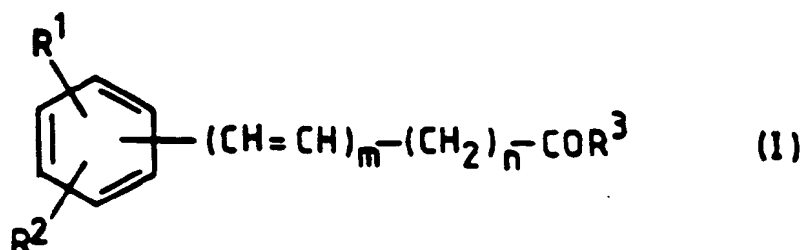
with the proviso that when m is 0, then n represents an integer from 2 to 6, and that when m is 0, n is 2, R<sup>1</sup> is an amino group and R<sup>2</sup> is an amino group, R<sup>3</sup> is other than an amino group substituted with one or two alkyl groups or a N-containing heterocyclic group having a ring nitrogen atom at the point of binding; and salts thereof.

2. A compound according to Claim 1, in which R<sup>3</sup> is a substituted amino group substituted by 1 or 2 groups selected from the members of Substituent Group A", or a 5- to 7-membered N-containing heterocyclic group containing from 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from nitrogen atoms, oxygen atoms and sulphur atoms, where Substituent Group A" consists of the following members: straight or branched chain alkyl groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, an adamantyl group, a phenyl group, and substituted phenyl groups substituted by 1 or 2 halogen atoms and/or straight or branched chain alkyl groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and salts thereof.
3. A compound according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, in which m is 0 or 1, and salts thereof.
4. A compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, in which n is an integer from 2 to 6, and salts thereof.
5. A compound according to Claim 1 which is selected from the following group:

N-(3-quinolyl)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamide,

N-(5-quinolyl)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamide,  
 N-(8-quinolyl)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamide,  
 N-(3-quinolyl)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamide hydrochloride,  
 N-(5-quinolyl)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamide hydrochloride, and  
 N-(8-quinolyl)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamide hydrochloride.

6. A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound of general formula (I),



wherein:

$\text{R}^1$  represents an amino group or a protected amino group;

$\text{R}^2$  represents an amino group or a protected amino group;

$\text{R}^3$  represents a substituted amino group substituted by 1 or 2 groups selected from the members of Substituent Group A', or a N-containing heterocyclic group having a ring nitrogen atom as the point of binding, where Substituent Group A' consists of the following members: straight or branched chain alkyl groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, 5- to 10-membered optionally bridged saturated cyclic hydrocarbon group, 6- to 10-membered aromatic cyclic hydrocarbon groups optionally fused with a cycloalkyl group and optionally substituted by 1 or 2 groups selected from the members of Substituent Group B and Substituent Group C, heterocyclic groups, and heterocyclic groups substituted by 1 or 2 groups selected from the members of Substituent Group B and Substituent Group C;

$\underline{m}$  represents an integer from 0 to 2;

$\underline{n}$  represents an integer from 0 to 6;

Substituent Group B consists of the following members: halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, alkoxy carbonyl groups, a nitro group, a cyano group, aryl carbonyl, aralkyl carbonyl groups;

Substituent Group C consists of the following members: straight or branched chain alkyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, haloalkyl groups containing 1 to 3 halogen atoms, and cycloalkyl groups;

heterocyclic groups comprise 5- to 7-membered heterocyclic groups containing from 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from nitrogen atoms, oxygen atoms and sulphur atoms, optionally fused with 1 or 2 aryl rings;

cycloalkyl groups comprise 3- to 10-membered optionally bridged saturated cyclic hydrocarbon groups;

aryl groups comprise 6- to 14-membered aromatic cyclic hydrocarbon groups optionally fused with a cycloalkyl group;

aralkyl groups comprise alkyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms substituted by 1 to 3 aryl groups;

halogen atoms comprise fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine atoms;

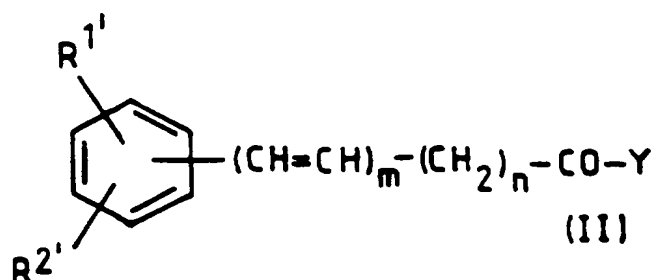
alkoxy groups comprise straight or branched chain alkoxy groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

with the proviso that when  $\underline{m}$  is 0, then  $\underline{n}$  represents an integer from 2 to 6];  
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

7. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 6 wherein said compound of general formula (I) is chosen from the following group:

N-(3-quinolyl)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamide,  
N-(5-quinolyl)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamide,  
N-(8-quinolyl)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamide,  
N-(3-quinolyl)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamide hydrochloride,  
N-(5-quinolyl)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamide hydrochloride, and  
N-(8-quinolyl)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamide hydrochloride.

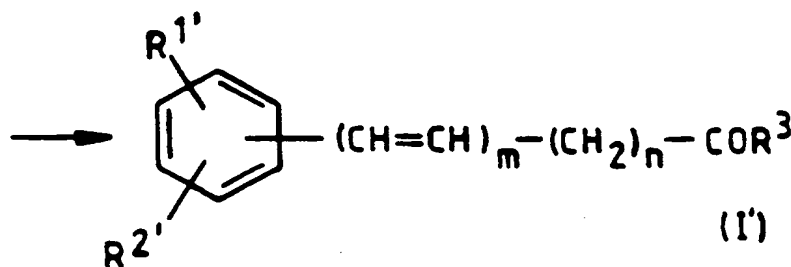
8. A process for preparing a compound of formula (I), as defined in Claim 1, or a salt thereof, which comprises amide formation through reaction of a reactive carboxylic acid derivative of general formula (II):



[wherein  $R^{1'}$  represents a nitro group or a protected amino group;  $R^{2'}$  represents a protected amino group;  $Y$  represents a leaving group; and  $\underline{m}$  and  $n$  have the meanings given in Claim 1], with a compound of general formula (III):



[wherein  $R^3$  has the meaning given in Claim 1], to give a compound of formula (I'):

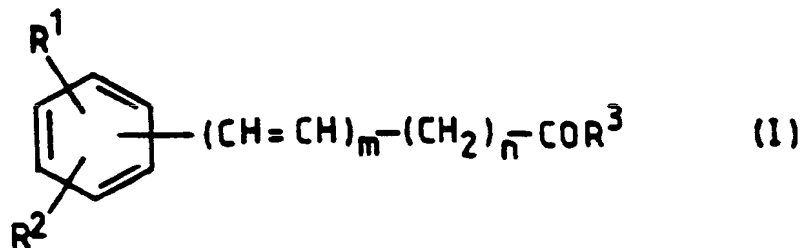


[wherein  $R^{1'}$ ,  $R^{2'}$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $\underline{m}$  and  $\underline{n}$  have the indicated meanings] followed if necessary or desired by one or more of the following optional steps:

- (1) when  $R^{1'}$  is a nitro group, reductive conversion into a compound of general formula (I) wherein  $R^1$  is an amino group,
- (2) when  $R^{1'}$  is a protected amino group, removal of the protecting group,
- (3) when  $R^{2'}$  is a protected amino group, removal of the protecting group, and/or
- (4) salification.

## Claims for the following Contracting States : ES, GR

1. A process for preparing a compound of the general formula (I):



15 [wherein:

R<sup>1</sup> represents an amino group or a protected amino group;

20 R<sup>2</sup> represents an amino group or a protected amino group;

R<sup>3</sup> represents a substituted amino group substituted by 1 or 2 groups selected from the members of Substituent Group A', or a N-containing heterocyclic group having a ring nitrogen atom as the point of binding, where Substituent Group A' consists of the following members: straight or branched chain alkyl groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, 5- to 10-membered optionally bridged saturated cyclic hydrocarbon group, 6- to 10-membered aromatic cyclic hydrocarbon groups optionally fused with a cycloalkyl group and optionally substituted by 1 or 2 groups selected from the members of Substituent Group B and Substituent Group C, heterocyclic groups, and heterocyclic groups substituted by 1 or 2 groups selected from the members of Substituent Group B and Substituent Group C;

30  $\underline{m}$  represents an integer from 0 to 2;

$\underline{n}$  represents an integer from 0 to 6;

35 Substituent Group B consists of the following members: halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, alkoxycarbonyl groups, a nitro group, a cyano group, arylcarbonyl, aralkylcarbonyl groups;

40 Substituent Group C consists of the following members: straight or branched chain alkyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, haloalkyl groups containing 1 to 3 halogen atoms, and cycloalkyl groups;

heterocyclic groups comprise 5- to 7-membered heterocyclic groups containing from 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from nitrogen atoms, oxygen atoms and sulphur atoms, optionally fused with 1 or 2 aryl rings;

45 cycloalkyl groups comprise 3- to 10-membered optionally bridged saturated cyclic hydrocarbon groups;

aryl groups comprise 6- to 14-membered aromatic cyclic hydrocarbon groups optionally fused with a cycloalkyl group;

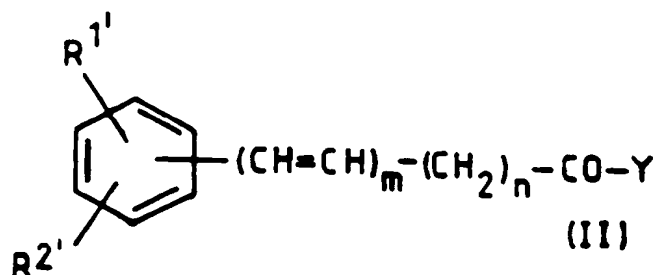
50 aralkyl groups comprise alkyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms substituted by 1 to 3 aryl groups;

halogen atoms comprise fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine atoms;

alkoxy groups comprise straight or branched chain alkoxy groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

55 with the proviso that when  $\underline{m}$  is 0, then  $\underline{n}$  represents an integer from 2 to 6, and that when  $\underline{m}$  is 0,  $\underline{n}$  is 2, R<sup>1</sup> is an amino group and R<sup>2</sup> is an amino group, R<sup>3</sup> is other than an amino group substituted with one or two alkyl groups or a N-containing heterocyclic group having a ring nitrogen atom at the point of binding]; or a salt thereof, which process comprises amide formation through reaction of a reactive carboxylic acid derivative

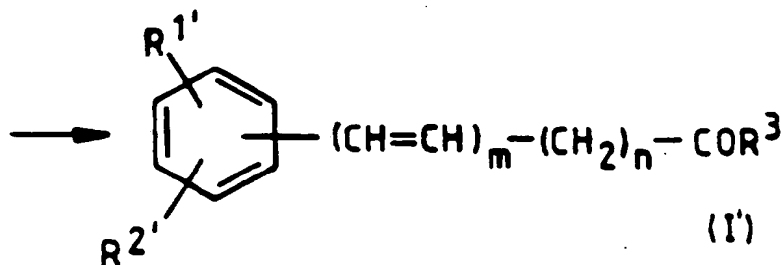
of general formula (II):



15 [wherein  $R^{1'}$  represents a nitro group or a protected amino group;  $R^{2'}$  represents a protected amino group; Y represents a leaving group; and  $\underline{m}$  and  $\underline{n}$  have the meanings as defined], with a compound of general formula (III):



[wherein  $R^3$  has the meaning as defined], to give a compound of formula (I):

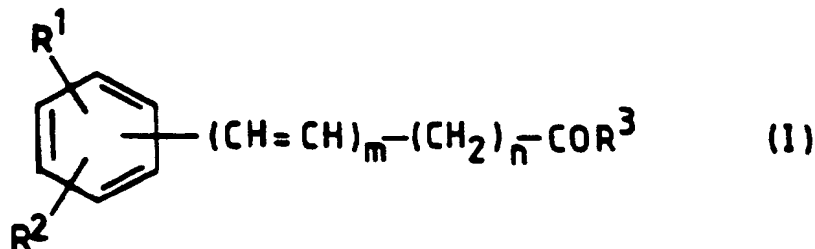


35 [wherein  $R^{1'}$ ,  $R^{2'}$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $\underline{m}$  and  $\underline{n}$  have the meanings as defined] followed if necessary or desired by one or more of the following optional steps:

- (1) when  $R^{1'}$  is a nitro group, reductive conversion into a compound of general formula (I) wherein  $R^1$  is an amino group,
  - (2) when  $R^{1'}$  is a protected amino group, removal of the protecting group,
  - (3) when  $R^{2'}$  is a protected amino group removal of the protecting group, and/or
  - (4) salification.
2. A process according to Claim 1, in which the reagents and reaction conditions are so chosen as to prepare a compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof, in which  $R^3$  is a substituted amino group substituted by 1 or 2 groups selected from the members of Substituent Group A\*, or a 5- to 7-membered N-containing heterocyclic group containing from 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from nitrogen atoms, oxygen atoms and sulphur atoms, where Substituent Group A\* consists of the following members: straight or branched chain alkyl groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, an adamantyl group, a phenyl group, and substituted phenyl groups substituted by 1 or 2 halogen atoms and/or straight or branched chain alkyl groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms.
  3. A process according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, in which the reagents and reaction conditions are so chosen as to prepare a compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof, in which  $\underline{m}$  is 0 or 1.
  4. A process according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, in which the reagents and reaction conditions are so chosen as to prepare a compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof, in which  $\underline{n}$  is an integer from 2 to 6.
  5. A process according to Claim 1 in which the reagents and reaction conditions are so chosen as to prepare a compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof, which is selected from the following group:

N-(3-quinoly)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamide,  
 N-(5-quinoly)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamide,  
 N-(8-quinoly)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamide,  
 N-(3-quinoly)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamide hydrochloride,  
 N-(5-quinoly)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamide hydrochloride, and  
 N-(8-quinoly)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamide hydrochloride.

6. A process for preparing a pharmaceutical composition which comprises mixing at least one compound of the general formula (I):



[wherein:

R<sup>1</sup> represents an amino group or a protected amino group;

R<sup>2</sup> represents an amino group or a protected amino group;

R<sup>3</sup> represents a substituted amino group substituted by 1 or 2 groups selected from the members of Substituent Group A', or a N-containing heterocyclic group having a ring nitrogen atom as the point of binding, where Substituent Group A' consists of the following members: straight or branched chain alkyl groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, 5- to 10-membered optionally bridged saturated cyclic hydrocarbon group, 6- to 10-membered aromatic cyclic hydrocarbon groups optionally fused with a cycloalkyl group and optionally substituted by 1 or 2 groups selected from the members of Substituent Group B and Substituent Group C, heterocyclic groups, and heterocyclic groups substituted by 1 or 2 groups selected from the members of Substituent Group B and Substituent Group C;

$\underline{m}$  represents an integer from 0 to 2;

$\underline{n}$  represents an integer from 0 to 6;

Substituent Group B consists of the following members: halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, alkoxy carbonyl groups, a nitro group, a cyano group, aryl carbonyl, aralkyl carbonyl groups;

Substituent Group C consists of the following members: straight or branched chain alkyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, haloalkyl groups containing 1 to 3 halogen atoms, and cycloalkyl groups;

heterocyclic groups comprise 5- to 7-membered heterocyclic groups containing from 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from nitrogen atoms, oxygen atoms and sulphur atoms, optionally fused with 1 or 2 aryl rings;

cycloalkyl groups comprise 3- to 10-membered optionally bridged saturated cyclic hydrocarbon groups;

aryl groups comprise 6- to 14-membered aromatic cyclic hydrocarbon groups optionally fused with a cycloalkyl group;

aralkyl groups comprise alkyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms substituted by 1 to 3 aryl groups;

halogen atoms comprise fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine atoms;

alkoxy groups comprise straight or branched chain alkoxy groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

with the proviso that when  $m$  is 0, then  $n$  represents an integer from 2 to 6];  
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

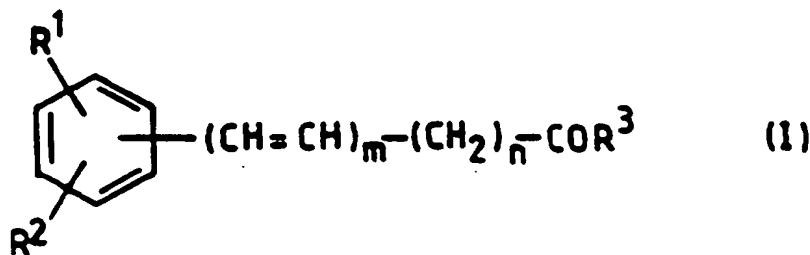
7. A process for preparing a pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 6, wherein said compound of formula (I) is selected from the following group:

N-(3-quinolyl)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamide,  
N-(5-quinolyl)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamide,  
N-(8-quinolyl)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamide,  
N-(3-quinolyl)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamide hydrochloride,  
N-(5-quinolyl)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamide hydrochloride, and  
N-(8-quinolyl)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamide hydrochloride.

## Patentansprüche

Patentansprüche für folgende Vertragsstaaten : GB, DE, FR, IT, CH, BE, NL, SE, LU, AT, MC, PT, LI

1. Verbindung der allgemeinen Formel (I):



worin:

R<sup>1</sup> eine Aminogruppe oder eine geschützte Aminogruppe darstellt;

R<sup>2</sup> eine Aminogruppe oder eine geschützte Aminogruppe darstellt;

R<sup>3</sup> eine substituierte Aminogruppe, die mit 1 oder 2 Gruppen substituiert ist, die unter den Mitgliedern der Substituentengruppe A' ausgewählt sind, oder eine N enthaltende heterocyclische Gruppe mit einem Ringstickstoffatom als dem Bindungspunkt darstellt, wobei die Substituentengruppe A' aus den folgenden Mitgliedern besteht: gerade oder verzweigt-kettige Alkylgruppen mit 1 bis 4 Kohlenstoffatomen, 5- bis 10-gliedrige, wahlweise überbrückte gesättigte cyclische Kohlenwasserstoffgruppen, 6- bis 10-gliedrige aromatische cyclische Kohlenwasserstoffgruppen, die wahlweise mit einer Cycloalkylgruppe kondensiert sind und die wahlweise mit 1 oder 2 Gruppen substituiert sind, die unter den Mitgliedern der Substituentengruppe B und der Substituentengruppe C ausgewählt sind, heterocyclische Gruppen und heterocyclische Gruppen, die mit 1 oder 2 Gruppen substituiert sind, die unter den Mitgliedern der Substituentengruppe B und der Substituentengruppe C ausgewählt sind;

m eine ganze Zahl von 0 bis 2 darstellt;

n eine ganze Zahl von 0 bis 6 darstellt;

die Substituentengruppe B aus den folgenden Mitgliedern besteht: Halogenatome, Alkoxygruppen, Alkoxy-carbonylgruppen, eine Nitrogruppe, eine Cyanogruppe, Arylcarbonylgruppen, Alkylcarbonylgruppen;

die Substituentengruppe C aus den folgenden Mitgliedern besteht: gerade oder verzweigt-kettige Alkylgruppen mit 1 bis 6 Kohlenstoffatomen, Halogenalkylgruppen, die 1 bis 3 Halogenatome enthalten, und Cycloalkylgruppen;

heterocyclische Gruppen 5- bis 7-gliedrige heterocyclische Gruppen umfassen, die 1 bis 4 Heteroatome, die unter Stickstoffatomen, Sauerstoffatomen und Schwefelatomen ausgewählt sind, enthalten und die wahlweise mit 1 oder 2 Arylringen kondensiert sind;

Cycloalkylgruppen 3- bis 10-gliedrige, wahlweise überbrückte gesättigte cyclische Kohlenwasserstoffgruppen umfassen;

Arylgruppen 6- bis 14-gliedrige aromatische cyclische Kohlenwasserstoffgruppen umfassen, die wahlweise mit einer Cycloalkylgruppe kondensiert sind;

Aralkylgruppen Alkylgruppen mit 1 bis 6 Kohlenstoffatomen umfassen, die mit 1 bis 3 Arylgruppen substituiert sind;

Halogenatome Fluor-, Chlor-, Brom- oder Iodatome umfassen;

Alkoxygruppen gerade oder verzweigt-kettige Alkoxygruppen mit 1 bis 6 Kohlenstoffatomen umfassen;

mit der Maßgabe, daß n eine ganze Zahl von 2 bis 6 darstellt, wenn m den Wert 0 hat und daß R<sup>3</sup> von einer Aminogruppe, die mit ein oder zwei Alkylgruppen substituiert ist, oder einer N enthaltenden heterocyclischen Gruppe mit einem Ringstickstoffatom am Bindungspunkt verschieden ist, wenn m den Wert 0 hat, n den Wert 2 hat, R<sup>1</sup> eine Aminogruppe ist und R<sup>2</sup> eine Aminogruppe ist; und Salze davon.

2. Verbindung nach Anspruch 1, in der R<sup>3</sup> eine substituierte Aminogruppe, die mit 1 oder 2 Gruppen substituiert ist, die unter den Mitgliedern der Substituentengruppe A' ausgewählt sind, oder eine 5- bis 7-gliedrige, N enthaltende heterocyclische Gruppe ist, die 1 bis 4 Heteroatome enthält, die unter Stickstoffatomen, Sauerstoffatomen und Schwefelatomen ausgewählt sind, wobei die Substituentengruppe A' aus folgenden Mitgliedern besteht: gerade oder verzweigt-kettige Alkylgruppen mit 1 bis 4 Kohlenstoffatomen, eine Adamantylgruppe, eine Phenylgruppe und substituierte Phenylgruppen, die mit 1 oder 2 Halogenatomen und/oder geraden oder verzweigt-kettigen Alkylgruppen mit 1 bis 4 Kohlenstoffatomen substituiert sind; und Salze davon.

3. Verbindung nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, in der m den Wert 0 oder 1 hat, und Salze davon.

4. Verbindung nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 3, in der n eine ganze Zahl von 2 bis 6 ist, und Salze davon.

5. Verbindung nach Anspruch 1, die aus der folgenden Gruppe ausgewählt ist:

N-(3-Chinolyl)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamid,

N-(5-Chinolyl)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamid,

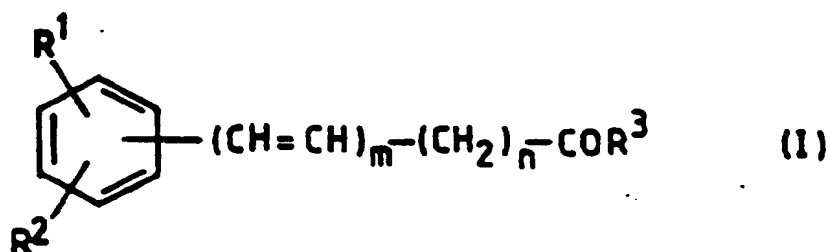
N-(8-Chinolyl)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamid,

N-(3-Chinolyl)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamid-hydrochlorid,

N-(5-Chinolyl)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamid-hydrochlorid und

N-(8-Chinolyl)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamid-hydrochlorid.

6. Pharmazeutische Zusammensetzung, die eine Verbindung der allgemeinen Formel (I):



[worin:

R<sup>1</sup> eine Aminogruppe oder eine geschützte Aminogruppe darstellt;

R<sup>2</sup> eine Aminogruppe oder eine geschützte Aminogruppe darstellt;

R<sup>3</sup> eine substituierte Aminogruppe, die mit 1 oder 2 Gruppen substituiert ist, die unter den Mitgliedern der Substituentengruppe A' ausgewählt sind, oder eine N enthaltende heterocyclische Gruppe mit einem Ringstickstoffatom als dem Bindungspunkt darstellt, wobei die Substituentengruppe A' aus den folgenden Mitgliedern besteht: gerade oder verzweigt-kettige Alkylgruppen mit 1 bis 4 Kohlenstoffatomen, 5- bis 10-gliedrige, wahlweise überbrückte gesättigte cyclische Kohlenwasserstoffgruppen, 6- bis 10-gliedrige aromatische cycli-



sche Kohlenwasserstoffgruppen, die wahlweise mit einer Cycloalkylgruppe kondensiert sind und die wahlweise mit 1 oder 2 Gruppen substituiert sind, die unter den Mitgliedern der Substituentengruppe B und der Substituentengruppe C ausgewählt sind, heterocyclische Gruppen und heterocyclische Gruppen, die mit 1 oder 2 Gruppen substituiert sind, die unter den Mitgliedern der Substituentengruppe B und der Substituentengruppe C ausgewählt sind;

m eine ganze Zahl von 0 bis 2 darstellt;

n eine ganze Zahl von 0 bis 6 darstellt;

die Substituentengruppe B aus den folgenden Mitgliedern besteht: Halogenatome, Alkoxygruppen, Alkoxy-carbonylgruppen, eine Nitrogruppe, eine Cyanogruppe, Arylcarbonylgruppen, Aralkylcarbonylgruppen;

die Substituentengruppe C aus den folgenden Mitgliedern besteht: gerade oder verzweigt-kettige Alkylgruppen mit 1 bis 6 Kohlenstoffatomen, Halogenalkylgruppen, die 1 bis 3 Halogenatome enthalten, und Cycloalkylgruppen;

heterocyclische Gruppen 5- bis 7-gliedrige heterocyclische Gruppen umfassen, die 1 bis 4 Heteroatome, die unter Stickstoffatomen, Sauerstoffatomen und Schwefelatomen ausgewählt sind, enthalten und die wahlweise mit 1 oder 2 Arylringen kondensiert sind;

Cycloalkylgruppen 3- bis 10-gliedrige, wahlweise überbrückte gesättigte cyclische Kohlenwasserstoffgruppen umfassen;

Arylgruppen 6- bis 14-gliedrige aromatische cyclische Kohlenwasserstoffgruppen umfassen, die wahlweise mit einer Cycloalkylgruppe kondensiert sind;

Aralkylgruppen Alkylgruppen mit 1 bis 6 Kohlenstoffatomen umfassen, die mit 1 bis 3 Arylgruppen substituiert sind;

Halogenatome Fluor-, Chlor-, Brom- oder Iodatome umfassen;

Alkoxygruppen gerade oder verzweigt-kettige Alkoxygruppen mit 1 bis 6 Kohlenstoffatomen umfassen;

mit der Maßgabe, daß n eine ganze Zahl von 2 bis 6 darstellt, wenn m den Wert 0 hat];

oder ein pharmazeutisch verträgliches Salz davon zusammen mit einem pharmazeutisch verträglichen Träger umfaßt.

7. Pharmazeutische Zusammensetzung nach Anspruch 6, wobei die Verbindung der allgemeinen Formel (I) aus der folgenden Gruppe ausgewählt ist:

N-(3-Chinoly)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamid,

N-(5-Chinoly)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamid,

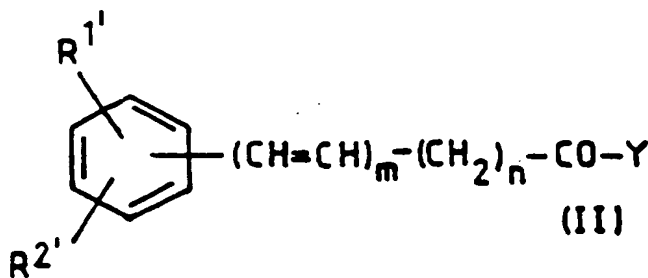
N-(8-Chinoly)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamid,

N-(3-Chinoly)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamid-hydrochlorid,

N-(5-Chinoly)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamid-hydrochlorid und

N-(8-Chinoly)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamid-hydrochlorid.

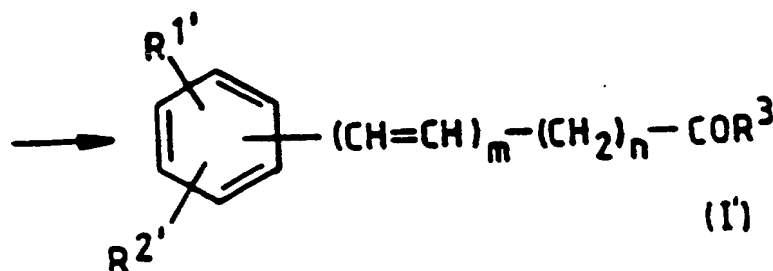
8. Verfahren zur Herstellung einer Verbindung der Formel (I) gemäß der Definition in Anspruch 1 oder eines Salzes davon, wobei das Verfahren die Amidbildung durch Umsetzung eines reaktiven Carbonsäurederivats der allgemeinen Formel (II):



[worin R<sup>1'</sup> eine Nitrogruppe oder eine geschützte Aminogruppe darstellt; R<sup>2'</sup> eine geschützte Aminogruppe darstellt; Y eine Abgangsgruppe darstellt; und m und n die in Anspruch 1 angegebenen Bedeutungen haben] mit einer Verbindung der allgemeinen Formel (III):



[worin  $R^3$  die in Anspruch 1 angegebene Bedeutung hat] umfaßt, wobei man eine Verbindung der Formel (I') erhält:

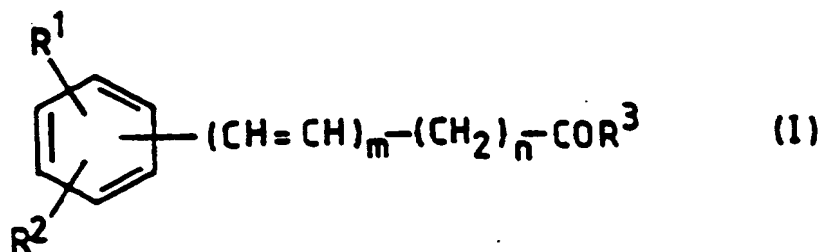


[worin  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $m$  und  $n$  die angegebenen Bedeutungen haben], gefolgt - falls es erforderlich oder gewünscht ist - von einer oder mehreren der folgenden wahlweisen Stufen:

- (1) wenn  $R^1$  eine Nitrogruppe ist: reduktive Umwandlung in eine Verbindung der allgemeinen Formel (I), in der  $R^1$  eine Aminogruppe ist;
- (2) wenn  $R^1$  eine geschützte Aminogruppe ist: Entfernung der Schutzgruppe;
- (3) wenn  $R^2$  eine geschützte Aminogruppe ist: Entfernung der Schutzgruppe; und/oder
- (4) Salzbildung.

#### Patentansprüche für folgende Vertragsstaaten : ES, GR

1. Verfahren zur Herstellung einer Verbindung der allgemeinen Formel (I):



[worin:

- $R^1$  eine Aminogruppe oder eine geschützte Aminogruppe darstellt;  
 $R^2$  eine Aminogruppe oder eine geschützte Aminogruppe darstellt;  
 $R^3$  eine substituierte Aminogruppe, die mit 1 oder 2 Gruppen substituiert ist, die unter den Mitgliedern der Substituentengruppe A' ausgewählt sind, oder eine N enthaltende heterocyclische Gruppe mit einem Ringstickstoffatom als dem Bindungspunkt darstellt, wobei die Substituentengruppe A' aus den folgenden Mitgliedern besteht: gerade oder verzweigte Alkylgruppen mit 1 bis 4 Kohlenstoffatomen, 5- bis 10-gliedrige, wahlweise überbrückte gesättigte cyclische Kohlenwasserstoffgruppen, 6- bis 10-gliedrige aromatische cyclische Kohlenwasserstoffgruppen, die wahlweise mit einer Cycloalkylgruppe kondensiert sind und die wahlweise mit 1 oder 2 Gruppen substituiert sind, die unter den Mitgliedern der Substituentengruppe B und der Substituentengruppe C ausgewählt sind, heterocyclische Gruppen und heterocyclische Gruppen, die mit 1 oder 2 Gruppen substituiert sind, die unter den Mitgliedern der Substituentengruppe B und der Substituentengruppe C ausgewählt sind;  
 $m$  eine ganze Zahl von 0 bis 2 darstellt;  
 $n$  eine ganze Zahl von 0 bis 6 darstellt;

die Substituentengruppe B aus den folgenden Mitgliedern besteht: Halogenatome, Alkoxygruppen, Alkoxy-carbonylgruppen, eine Nitrogruppe, eine Cyanogruppe, Arylcarbonylgruppen, Aralkylcarbonylgruppen; die Substituentengruppe C aus den folgenden Mitgliedern besteht: gerade oder verzweigt-kettige Alkylgruppen mit 1 bis 6 Kohlenstoffatomen, Halogenalkylgruppen, die 1 bis 3 Halogenatome enthalten, und Cycloalkylgruppen;

heterocyclische Gruppen 5- bis 7-gliedrige heterocyclische Gruppen umfassen, die 1 bis 4 Heteroatome, die unter Stickstoffatomen, Sauerstoffatomen und Schwefelatomen ausgewählt sind, enthalten und die wahlweise mit 1 oder 2 Arylringen kondensiert sind;

Cycloalkylgruppen 3- bis 10-gliedrige, wahlweise überbrückte gesättigte cyclische Kohlenwasserstoffgruppen umfassen;

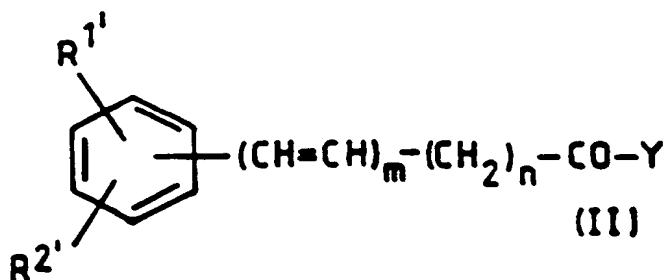
Arylgruppen 6- bis 14-gliedrige aromatische cyclische Kohlenwasserstoffgruppen umfassen, die wahlweise mit einer Cycloalkylgruppe kondensiert sind;

Aralkylgruppen Alkylgruppen mit 1 bis 6 Kohlenstoffatomen umfassen, die mit 1 bis 3 Arylgruppen substituiert sind;

Halogenatome Fluor-, Chlor-, Brom- oder Iodatome umfassen;

Alkoxygruppen gerade oder verzweigt-kettige Alkoxygruppen mit 1 bis 6 Kohlenstoffatomen umfassen; mit der Maßgabe, daß n eine ganze Zahl von 2 bis 6 darstellt, wenn m den Wert 0 hat und daß R<sup>3</sup> von einer Aminogruppe, die mit ein oder zwei Alkylgruppen substituiert ist, oder einer N enthaltenden heterocyclischen Gruppe mit einem Ringstickstoffatom am Bindungspunkt verschieden ist, wenn m den Wert 0 hat, n den Wert 2 hat, R<sup>1</sup> eine Aminogruppe ist und R<sup>2</sup> eine Aminogruppe ist];

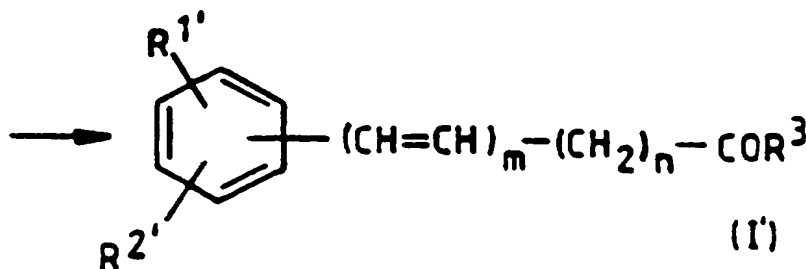
oder eines Salzes davon, wobei das Verfahren die Amidbildung durch Umsetzung eines reaktiven Carbon-säurederivats der allgemeinen Formel (II):



[worin R<sup>1'</sup> eine Nitrogruppe oder eine geschützte Aminogruppe darstellt; R<sup>2'</sup> eine geschützte Aminogruppe darstellt; Y eine Abgangsgruppe darstellt; und m und n die angegebenen Bedeutungen haben] mit einer Verbindung der allgemeinen Formel (III):



[worin R<sup>3</sup> die angegebene Bedeutung hat] umfaßt, wobei man eine Verbindung der Formel (I') erhält:



[worin R<sup>1'</sup>, R<sup>2'</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, m und n die angegebenen Bedeutungen haben], gefolgt - falls es erforderlich oder gewünscht ist - von einer oder mehreren der folgenden wahlweisen Stufen:

(1) wenn R<sup>1</sup> eine Nitrogruppe ist: reduktive Umwandlung in eine Verbindung der allgemeinen Formel (I), in der R<sup>1</sup> eine Aminogruppe ist;

(2) wenn R<sup>1</sup> eine geschützte Aminogruppe ist: Entfernung der Schutzgruppe;

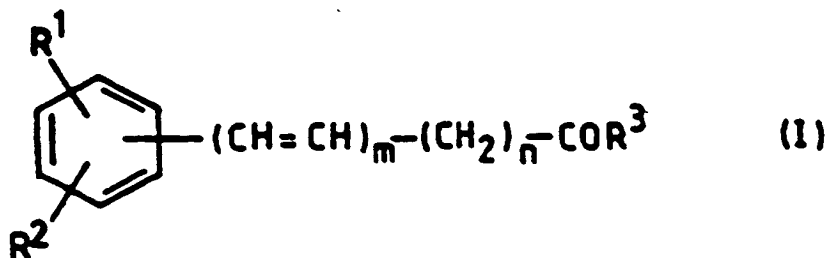
(3) wenn R<sup>2</sup> eine geschützte Aminogruppe ist: Entfernung der Schutzgruppe; und/oder

(4) Salzbildung.

2. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, bei dem die Reagenzien und Reaktionsbedingungen so gewählt werden, daß eine Verbindung der Formel (I) oder ein Salz davon hergestellt wird, worin R<sup>3</sup> eine substituierte Aminogruppe, die mit 1 oder 2 Gruppen substituiert ist, die unter den Mitgliedern der Substituentengruppe A' ausgewählt sind, oder eine 5- bis 7-gliedrige, N enthaltende heterocyclische Gruppe ist, die 1 bis 4 Heteroatome enthält, die unter Stickstoffatomen, Sauerstoffatomen und Schwefelatomen ausgewählt sind, wobei die Substituentengruppe A' aus folgenden Mitgliedern besteht: gerade oder verzweigte Alkylgruppen mit 1 bis 4 Kohlenstoffatomen, eine Adamantylgruppe, eine Phenylgruppe und substituierte Phenylgruppen, die mit 1 oder 2 Halogenatomen und/oder geraden oder verzweigten Alkylgruppen mit 1 bis 4 Kohlenstoffatomen substituiert sind.
3. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, bei dem die Reagenzien und Reaktionsbedingungen so gewählt werden, daß eine Verbindung der Formel (I) oder ein Salz davon hergestellt wird, worin m den Wert 0 oder 1 hat.
4. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 3, bei dem die Reagenzien und Reaktionsbedingungen so gewählt werden, daß eine Verbindung der Formel (I) oder ein Salz davon hergestellt wird, worin n eine ganze Zahl von 2 bis 6 ist.
5. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, bei dem die Reagenzien und Reaktionsbedingungen so gewählt werden, daß eine Verbindung der Formel (I) oder ein Salz davon hergestellt wird, die/das aus der folgenden Gruppe ausgewählt ist:

N-(3-Chinolyl)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamid,  
 N-(5-Chinolyl)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamid,  
 N-(8-Chinolyl)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamid,  
 N-(3-Chinolyl)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamid-hydrochlorid,  
 N-(5-Chinolyl)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamid-hydrochlorid und  
 N-(8-Chinolyl)-3-(3,4-diaminophenyl)propionamid-hydrochlorid.

6. Verfahren zur Herstellung einer pharmazeutischen Zusammensetzung, das das Mischen mindestens einer Verbindung der allgemeinen Formel (I):



[worin:

R<sup>1</sup> eine Aminogruppe oder eine geschützte Aminogruppe darstellt;

R<sup>2</sup> eine Aminogruppe oder eine geschützte Aminogruppe darstellt;

R<sup>3</sup> eine substituierte Aminogruppe, die mit 1 oder 2 Gruppen substituiert ist, die unter den Mitgliedern der Substituentengruppe A' ausgewählt sind, oder eine N enthaltende heterocyclische Gruppe mit einem Ringstickstoffatom als dem Bindungspunkt darstellt, wobei die Substituentengruppe A' aus den folgenden Mitgliedern besteht: gerade oder verzweigte Alkylgruppen mit 1 bis 4 Kohlenstoffatomen, 5- bis 10-gliedrige, wahlweise überbrückte gesättigte cyclische Kohlenwasserstoffgruppen, 6- bis 10-gliedrige aromatische cyclische Kohlenwasserstoffgruppen, die wahlweise mit einer Cycloalkylgruppe kondensiert sind und die wahlweise mit 1 oder 2 Gruppen substituiert sind, die unter den Mitgliedern der Substituentengruppe B und der Sub-